UJ ウルトラ YJC

9784088770772

ISBN4-08-877077-3

C9979 ¥590E

1929979005900

定価 本体590円＋税

雑誌 44256－77

皇国の守護者

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漫画 伊藤 悠

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※この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

登場人物紹介

◆皇国軍◆

漆原少尉
第十一大隊所属。新城に反発する。

猪口曹長
熟練の鷹長。新城の参謀的な存在。

千早（剣牙虎）
新城が世話をしている優秀な剣牙虎。

新城直衛大尉
本編の主人公。野戦昇進し、第十一大隊を指揮する。剣牙虎の扱いに精通。

金森二等導術兵
特殊能力で索敵・通信などを行う。

妹尾少尉
敗走し、第十一大隊に合流した。

兵藤少尉
第十一大隊所属。尖兵を統括する。

浦辺大尉
水軍所属。笹嶋の部下。戦務参謀。

坪田中佐
水軍所属。笹島の同僚。巡洋艦「大瀬」艦長。

笹嶋中佐
水軍所属。転進支援隊本部指令。

◆帝国軍◆

バルクホルン
〈帝国〉陸軍の大尉。兵からの信頼が厚い。

メレンティン
ユーリアの作戦参謀を務める。

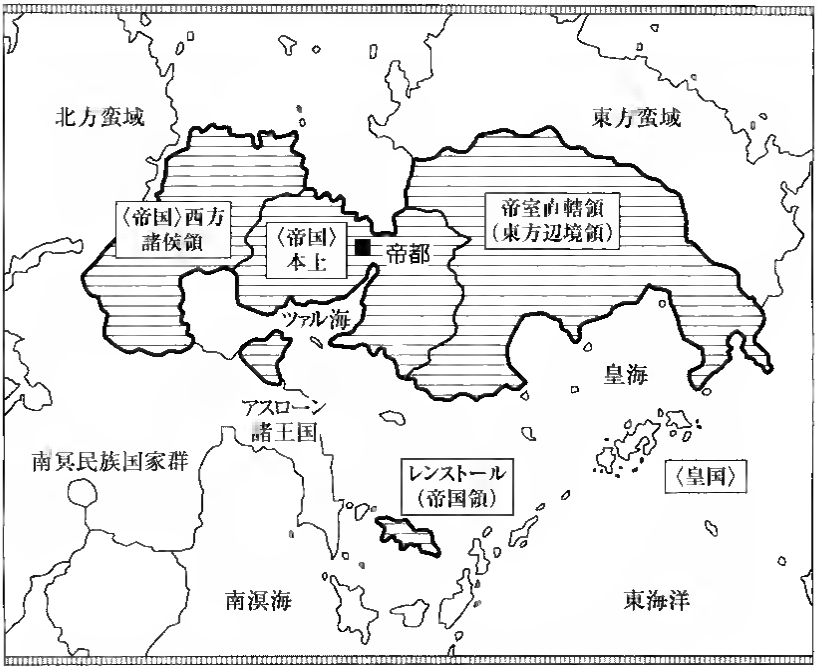
カミンスキィ
〈帝国〉陸軍大佐。強い野心を抱く。

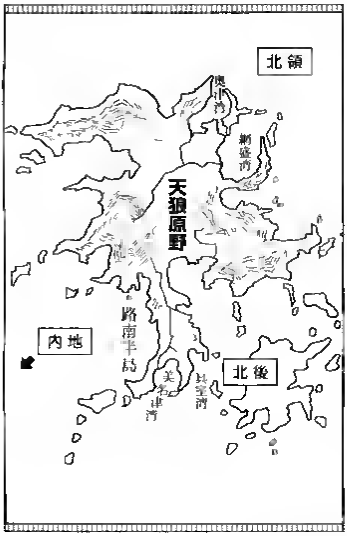
ユーリア
〈帝国〉陸軍の元帥。〈皇国〉侵略の総司令官。

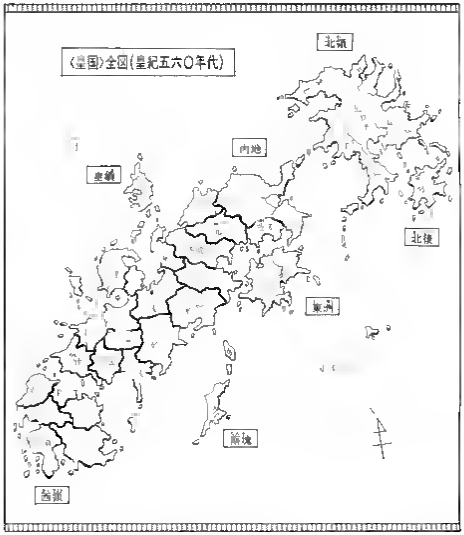
アルター
シュヴェーリンの部下。参謀長を務める。

シュヴェーリン
〈帝国〉軍先鋒隊指揮官。新城の戦術に苦戦。

マクシム
カミンスキィの部下。首席幕僚を務める。


北方蛮域
東方蛮域
〈帝国〉西方
諸侯領
〈帝国〉
本土
帝都
帝室直轄領
(東方辺境領)
ツァル海
皇海
アスローン
諸王国
南冥民族国家群
レンストール
(帝国領)
〈皇国〉
南溟海
東海洋


北領
天狼原野
内地
北後

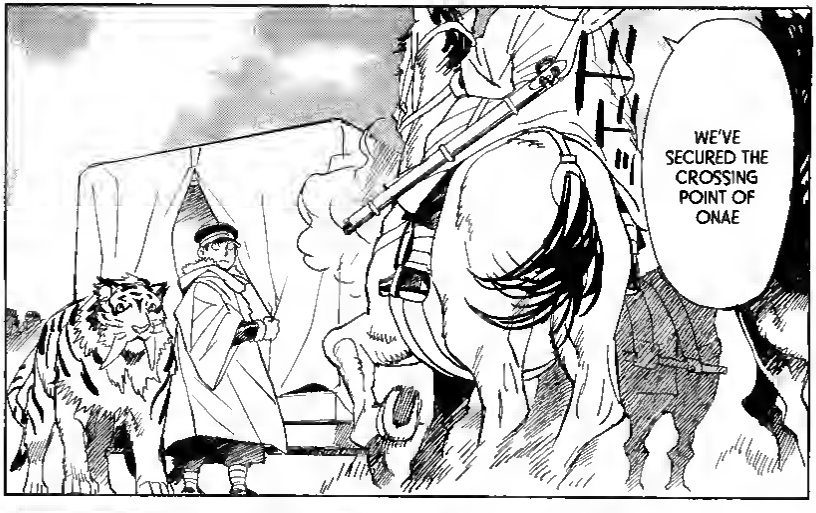

〈皇国〉全図(皇紀五六〇年代)
北領
内地
北後
東洲
隔境
海嶺

前巻までのあらすじ

神代の昔、人と龍の間に結ばれたとされる〈大協約〉が世界秩序の根幹を成す〈大協約〉世界――。最大の大陸ツァルラントに興った侵略王朝はいくつもの内陸国家や諸部族を併呑し、超大国〈帝国〉としてわずかに残る諸勢力をも睥睨していた。ツァルラント東端より海洋によって隔てられた洋上に存在する新興国〈皇国〉。北領・内地・東洲・皇嶼・南塊・西領の六つの大島からなるこの島国は、東方の周辺部族――〈帝国〉人の言う"蛮族"――のひとつ。〈帝国〉の勢威を脅かすには至らないと見なされ、東洲公による内乱を最後に二十四年間大規模な戦役を経ることもなく平和の中にあった。

だが突如、超大国〈帝国〉が、〈皇国〉最北端、北領に侵攻を開始。〈皇国〉は北領からの撤退を決断し、新城たちが撤退支援の殿軍を務めることに。真室大橋を拠点に、〈帝国〉の足止めを画策する〈皇国〉軍。敵の圧倒的な軍勢に対抗するため、新城属する第十一大隊は夜襲伏撃を敢行し、敵に大打撃を与えるも、大隊の指揮官、伊藤少佐を含む五百名の兵と八十頭の剣牙虎を失う結果に……。野戦昇進で大尉となり、第十一大隊を指揮する事になった新城。全滅に近い状態の大隊に、転進支援本部司令、笹嶋水軍中佐から、さらに十日間の時間を稼ぐよう要請が届く。最悪の状況下、新城はいかに戦うのか。

KANAMORI, CAN YOU DO IT?
As you wish, Com-mander
THEN LOOK FOR THE ENEMY, YOUR PRIORITY IS TO FIND WHERE THEIR MAIN FORCES ARE
第二章
光帯の下で 4


WE'VE SECURED THE CROSSING POINT OF ONAE

That baldy's head is almost cracking up...

This again...

I SENT A PLATOON THERE TO START WORKING ON A CAMP,
AND ORDERED THEM TO GATHER AS MUCH WOOD AS POSSILBE

AND AFTER THAT, YOU OBTAINED A FEW HORSE PLOWS, CORRECT?
GOOD JOB, GET SOME ENGINEERS AND RETURN TO CAMP

WHAT?
YOU FANCY YOURSELF A PARTICULARLY COURAGEOUS PERSON, DON'T YOU?
I THOUGHT GETTING EVERYTHING READY FOR BLOWING UP THE BRIDGE WOULD BE THE PRIORITY
ONCE YOU ARRIVE, GIVE PRIORITY TO SETTING UP ALL GUN PLATFORMS, AND THEN START GETTING EVERYTHING READY FOR THE OPERATION
I THINK THAT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, YOU WOULD HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO
WELL, I DON'T
AND IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF ENDED BLOWING UP WHILE ALIES OR REFUGEES ARE CROSSING THE BRIDGE THIS HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST
THE MOST EFFECTIVE MOMENT TO BLOW UP THE BRIDGE WOULD BE AS THE ENEMY IS CROSSING IT, AND THEY ARE EXACTLY IN THE MIDDLE,
BUT IF YOU HURRY UP AND SET EVERYTIHNG UP TOO QUICKLY, YOU ALL MIGHT END UP GETTING TOO ANXIOUS AND BLOWING IT TO SOON I WANT TO AVOID THAT

I WANT TO RESCUE AS MANY OF OUR ALLIES AS POSSIBLE
AND BECAUSE OF THAT I WANT TO POSTPONE THE PREPARATIONS FOR BLOWING UP THE BRIDGE
Comm-ander...
This is exactly as I hoped. Their marching speed has certainly been reduced
GREAT JOB REST UP FOR A WHILE
The enemy vanguard is 59km away from us. Their main forces are approximately 78km distant
The imperial guards are 39km away from us, approaching Onae bridge
ROYAL ARMY MAIN FORCES
SIDE ROAD
GREAT MAMURO BRIDGE
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD
HIGHWAY
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SABERTOOH BATALLION, 11TH SQUAD
NAMINAE BRIDGE
IMPERIAL GUARDS 5TH BRIGADE
NAE RIVER
ONAE BRIDGE

GET IN CONTACT WITH THE IMPERIAL GUA--
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY DOUJUTSU USERS ON THEIR SQUAD
AND BESIDES, KANAMORI IS EXHAUSTED
UNDER-STOOD!
YOU'RE RIGHT,
GET THIS LETTER TO HIS MAJESTY,
HURRY UP
THE ENGINEERS CAN JUST GO AFTER YOU, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY

Tch
I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW THAT WE POISONED THE WELLS. DO YOU KNOW, SERJEANT MAJOR?
HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO SURVIVE ON SNOW?
I MEAN, IF THE PROBLEM IS 'WATER', THERE'S SNOW EVERYWHERE

AND TO DO THAT, THEY HAVE TO HEAT IT ALL ONE BY ONE, IT'S INCREDIBLY CUMBERSOME NOT TO MENTION THEY NEED FIREWOOD
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH SNOW YOU TRY TO SWALLOW, YOU WILL STILL BE THIRSTY THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN DO IT IS MELT IT IN A POT
I DID THAT A LOT!
THAT'S EXACTLY IT
COMM-ANDER, PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME
BUT REGARDLESS, THEY HAVE TO GATHER FIREWOOD FOR COOKING

THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH
SO,
IF THEY HAVE TO GATHER DOUBLE THE FIREWOOD EVERY DAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?
SINCE THEY CANNOT USE THE WELLS THE ENEMY HAS TO MAKE ENOUGH WATER FOR THEIR ENTIRE ARMY USING ONLY SNOW, ALL THE TIME,
THAT MEANS THAT NOT ONLY DO THEY NEED TO GATHER ENOUGH WOOD FOR COOKING, THEY ALSO HAVE TO GATHER MORE TO MAKE WATER. THIS SHOULD MEAN AT LEAST DOUBLE THE WOOD

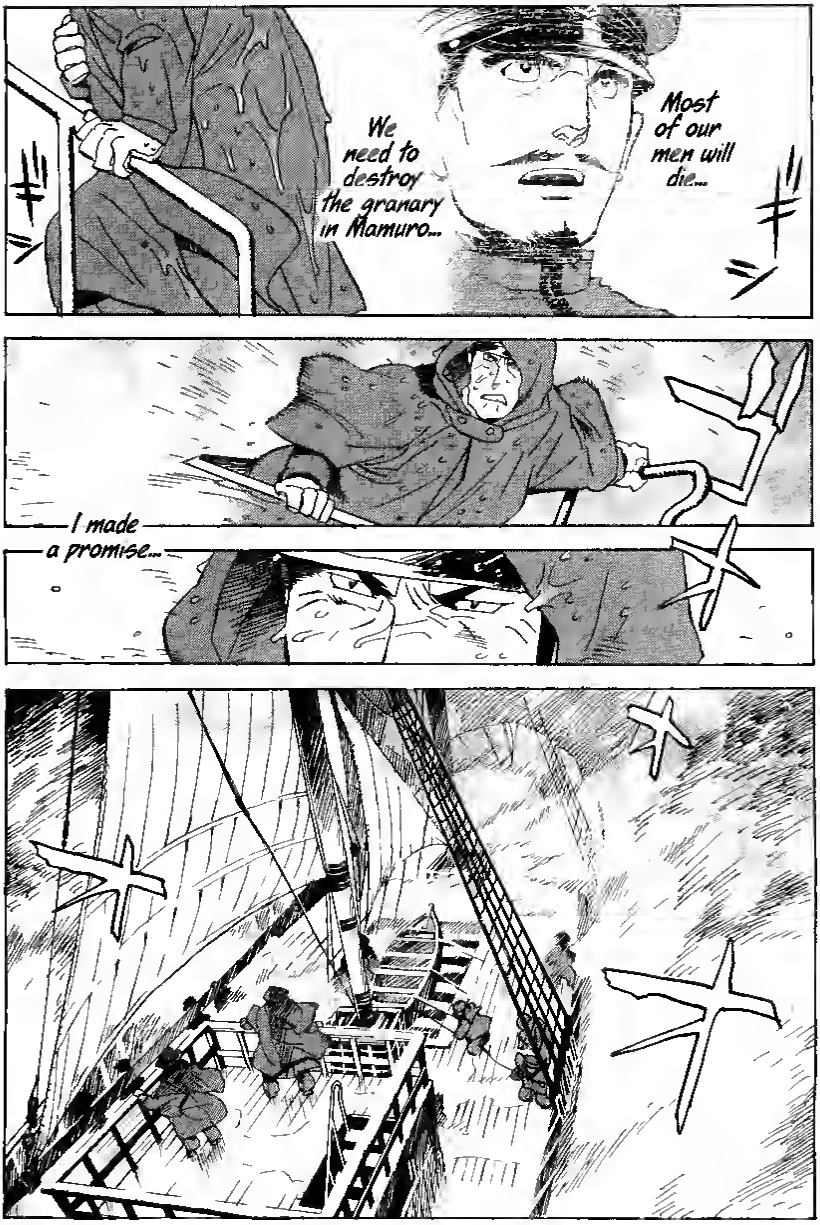
HUMANS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE TO DRINK WATER
HOW MANY HORSES DO YOU THINK THE ROYAL ARMY HAS?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?
THAT'S WHAT WE WANT,
WE POISONED THE WELLS TO MAKE THINGS AS TOUGH AS POSSIBLE FOR OUR ENEMIES
YES
WE HAVE NO REASON TO SLOW DOWN EVEN MORE!
Royal Army Vanguard Commander
Major General
Yurei Dranovich deAnvallahru Schwerin

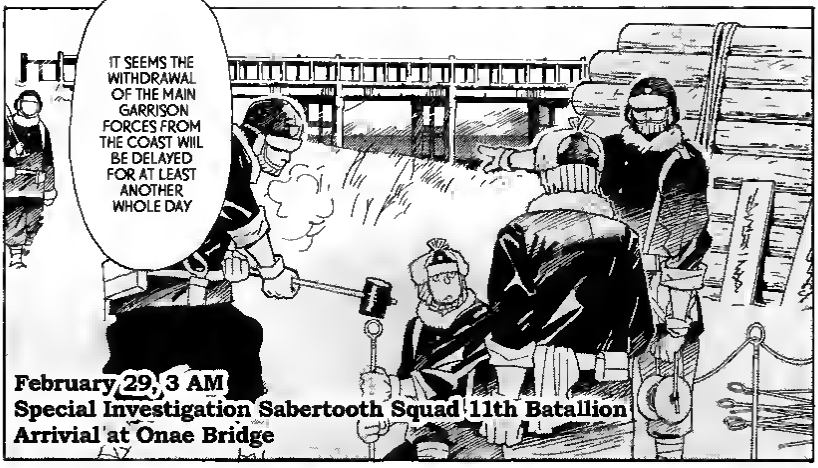
PLEASE MAKE THESE NAMES STOP

AS THE VANGUARD, WE HAVE PRIORITY WHEN SUPPLIES ARE DISTRIBUTED
BUT ALL THE VILLAGES WE PLANNED TO GATHER RESOURCES FROM ARE IN THIS STATE,
OUR PROVISIONS ARE GETTING VERY CLOSE TO CRITICAL LEVEL
THE WATER ISN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM.
THOSE BARBARIANS ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF THEIR MIND, DOING THAT TO THEIR OWN VILLAGES
IF WE MOVE FASTER THAN WE ARE, OUR SOLDIERS AND HORSES WILL GET EXHAUSTED QUICKER AND CONSUME EVEN MORE OF OUR PROVISIONS
AND NEITHER CAN WE USE RIVERS, AS THE WATER QUICKLY FREEZES WHEN TRANSPORTED, CURRENTLY WE HAVE TO MELT SNOW. HOWEVER...
SINCE WE CAN'T USE WELLS FOR WATER...
GATHERING WOOD MAKES OUR SOLDIERS EVEN MORE HUNGRY
Chief of Staff
Lieutenant Colonel
Hans Alter

MAMURO, HEH?
YES...
I BELIEVE WE
ALL HAVE
OVERLOOKED IT
CAN'T WE GO
TO MAMURO AND
STEAL THEIR
RESOURCES?
I'M SURE IT HAS
NOT BEEN BURNED.
OUR ENEMIES ARE
DEFEATED AND STILL
HAVE TO FLEE.
I DOUBT THEY'D GO
TO A PORT TOWN
SO OUT OF THE WAY
WATER
LEAKAGE
SHOULD
REACH
360 LITERS
IN 30
MINUTES
WE'VE
REINFORCED
ALL OUR
GUNPORTS.
THERE'S NO
PROBLEMS
WITH THE
LASHINGS
OF OUR
CANNONS
February 18th, 4PM
Onzaki Cape, 70km away from the coast

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE BOMBARDMENT?
THERE ARE NO CHANGES. IT SHOULD BE DONE TOMORROW BEFORE DAWN.
OUR ONLY QUESTION RIGHT NOW IS HOW FAR NORTH WE'RE GOING AFTER IT. THE PITCHING...
IN THIS WEATHER...?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE OTHER THAN SIMPLY GOING WITH THE WIND
WE NEED TO GET AT LEAST 55M DISTANT OF THE TARGET, OUR TARGET, THE GRANARY IN MAMURO.
THIS IS VERY CLOSE TO THE SEA, BUT I DON'T WANT TO RISK HITTING SOMEONE'S HOME
THANKS FOR YOUR WORK. PLEASE RELAY THIS TO THE CHIEF OF ARTILLERY
I'M GOING UP OUTSIDE


We need to destroy the granary in Mamuro...
Most of our men will die...
I made a promise...


IT SEEMS THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MAIN GARRISON FORCES FROM THE COAST WILL BE DELAYED FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER WHOLE DAY
February 29, 3 AM
Special Investigation Sabertooth Squad 11th Batallion
Arrivial at Onae Bridge

HE IS DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES
THEY CANNOT TAKE EVERYTHING OUT OF THE COAST WE ARE TO TAKE ANY GOODS AND EQUIPMENT WE MIGHT NEED, AND HE HAS ALSO SAID THEY WILL DO THEIR BEST TO UPHOLD ANY REQUESTS OUR COMMANDER MAY HAVE

THAT LARGE TENT OVER THERE
HIS HIGHNESS HAD THAT SET UP OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE IMPERIAL GUARDS

I pray fortune may smile upon you and your batallion...

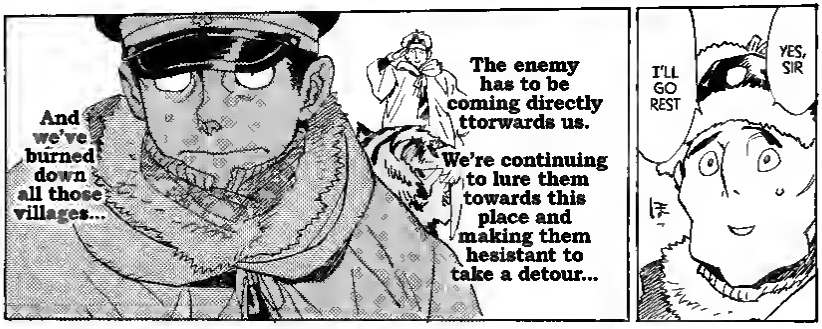
WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY BEFITTING OF THE SOLDIERS SERVING UNDER THE PRINCE
SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED SOLDIERS WENT TO THE REAR GUARD TO HELP OUR WEAKENED SOLDIERS IN THE FIGHTING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THEY MANAGED TO GET HERE
THEY'RE SLEEPING
I WANT ALL MEN AWAKE AND READY TO START WORK BY 4AM BEGIN BUILDING OUR FORTIFICATIONS ACCORDING TO THE PLANS LAID OUT BY ENGINEER PLATOON COMMANDER,
WAKE THEM UP IMMEDIATELY AND TELL THEM TO START BOILING WATER
ARE THE MEN IN CHARGE OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION AWAKE?
IN ORDER TO WARM IT UP A BIT
DON'T LET THEM SLEEP FOR MORE THAN 2 OR 3 HOURS IN THE LARGE TENT, IT GETS TOO COLD DURING THE NIGHT
I WANT ALL OF OUR SOILDERS TO HAVE A HOT CUP OF WATER AS SOON AS THEY WAKE UP
NO, THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO KEEP GOING ON WITH THIS I'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING UP TO YOU
YES, SIR
OF COURSE, IF WE HAVE TEA, DO SHARE WITH THEM

I DON'T UNDERSTAND MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT I'M SURE THEY'RE NOT HAVING IT EASY WITH THIS FROZEN GROUND
WELL, THEY CAN USE SHOVELS TO DIG TRENCHES AFTEWARDS, CORRECT?
ALL RIGHT, THEN SERGEANT MAJOR, YOU GO REST UNTIL 4AM
This guy is actually pretty nice...
Heh...
HOW MANY SONS OF FARMERS DO WE HAVE?
THERE ARE SOME, BUT
THEY'RE BUSY WITH THE HORSES AND PLOWS
SECOND LIEUTENANT HYODO,
GO REST UNTIL 4:30 THIS IS AN ORDER
BUT I'M NOT TIRED
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO SAY THE SAME TOMORROW MORNING?
UNDER-STOOD
I'LL REST

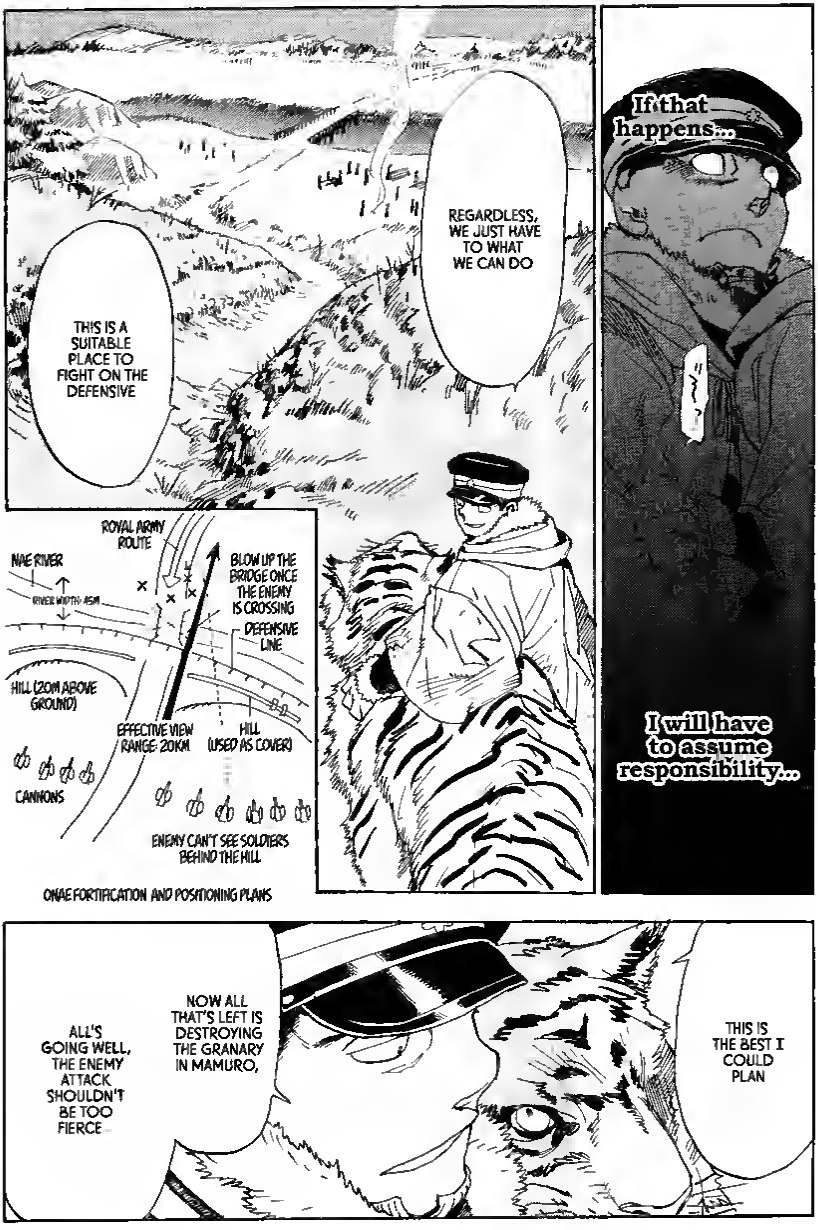
MAMURO RIVER
MAMURO
KAMINAE
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SABERTOOTH SQUAD 11TH BATALLION
NORTHEN GARRISONS MOBILIZATION COAST
MINATSU
WE'VE ALREADY DEMOLISHED KAMINAE BRIDGE,
AND BESIDES, TRYING TO TAKE A DETOUR UPSTREAM WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 2 DAYS DUE TO THE TERRIBLE ROAD CONDITIONS
ONLY CAVALRY WOULD BE ABLE TO GO ANY FASTER THAN THAT
COM-MANDER, ABOUT THIS POINT HERE, UPSTREAM...
THEIR CURRENT SUPPLY CHAIN SIMPLY CANNOT CARRY OUT THIS KIND OF OPERATION
HOWEVER, THEY SIMPLY DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DISPATCH THEIR CAVALRY
BUT WHAT IF... FOR EXAMPLE, THEY COME WITH HUNDREDS OF HORSES, OUR SQUAD...
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT

SIDE ROAD
MAIN ROAD
KAMINAE
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD
ONAE
DEFENSIVE LINE
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SABERTOOTH SQUAD 11TH BATALLION
THEY MIGHT ATTACK US FROM BEHIND IN A PINCER ATTACK!
EVEN GIVEN THE CURRENT SITUATION, 10,000 WEAKENED SOLDIERS WOULD NOT OFFER MUCH RESISTTENCE AGAINST ALL OUR FORCES
THE ENEMY SIMPLY CAN'T ATTACK ALL THE GARRISON FORCES STATIONED AT THE COAST WITH THEIR CURRENT POWER,
BUT EVEN THAT IS UNLIKELY
THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING THE DOUJUTSU SQUAD WATCH THE REGION
THAT COULD HAPPEN,
IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE THIS ALL UNDER CONTROL
Actually...
YES
IF WE DON'T DO THAT, OUR TROOPS WILL BE TOO FEW AND OUR OPTIONS NONE, NOT TO MENTION A LOWER MORALE
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'RE GONNA ENTER IN BATTLE WITH THEM HERE, SO I NEED THE ENTIRE BATALLION IN THIS LOCATION

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
SO GO REST FOR NOW
YOU JUST NEED TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS AND WE WILL DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES EASILY
IF THE ENEMY DOES TAKE A DETOUR...


And we've burned down all those villages...
The enemy has to be coming directly ttorwards us.
We're continuing to lure them towards this place and making them hesistant to take a detour...
I'LL GO REST
YES, SIR

IN THEY REALLY DECIDE TO TAKE A DETOUR, THEY'D TAKE AT LEAST TWO DAYS TO PREPARE EVERYTHING
IN THAT CASE, THEY'RE PROBABLY GATHERING AND DISTRIBUTING THEIR RESOURCES IN ADVANCE
THAT SAID, THEY MIGHT BE LACKING RESOURCES, BUT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEIR CAVALRY TO TAKE A DETOUR.


THIS IS A SUITABLE PLACE TO FIGHT ON THE DEFENSIVE
REGARDLESS, WE JUST HAVE TO WHAT WE CAN DO
If that happens...
I will have to assume responsibility...
ROYAL ARMY ROUTE
NAE RIVER
RIVER WIDTH: 45M
BLOW UP THE BRIDGE ONCE THE ENEMY IS CROSSING
DEFENSIVE LINE
HILL (20M ABOVE GROUND)
EFFECTIVE VIEW RANGE: 20KM
HILL (USED AS COVER)
CANNONS
ENEMY CAN'T SEE SOLDIERS BEHIND THE HILL
ONAE FORTIFICATION AND POSITIONING PLANS
ALL'S GOING WELL, THE ENEMY ATTACK SHOULDN'T BE TOO FIERCE...
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS DESTROYING THE GRANARY IN MAMURO,
THIS IS THE BEST I COULD PLAN

FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE WERE TO WITHDRAW UNDER THE COVER OF THE NIGHT...
IT WOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE EVERYONE BOARD THE LAST REMAINING RESCUE SHIP
THREE DECKHANDS HAVE BEEN SWEPT AWAY BY THE WAVES!
THIS SHIP WILL...
GET FLOODED AND SINK!!
THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM THE CARPENTERS! WE HAVE URGENT NEED OF MORE PEOPLE DOWN BELOW, OTHERWISE...

THE ARTILLERY HEAD GOT HURT WHILE TRYIHG TO CUT THE LASHES OF THE SIXTH STARBOARD CAHHOH!
REPAIRS ARE UHDERWAY UHDER THE COMMAHD OF THE GUHHER'S MATE!!

THE BOW'S SAIL GOT CUT OFF!
HOLD ON!!
BOATSWAIN! THE SAILING IS AT ITS LIMIT!!
JUST CONCENTRATE ON STRETCHING IT FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN !!

START REEFING THE MAIN MAST SAIL AND THE ONES REMAINING IN THE MIDDLE!
THE REAR SAIL AS WELL!!
WE CAN'T GET WASHED AWAY NOW!!
It seems this is beyond the abilities...
of even our expert sailors...
It seems this crisis will
agreement...
One way or another, we're not making it before the deadline...

ハ ハ ハ

February 19th, 2 AM.
Imperial Navy Cruiser "Oose" lost in a shipwreck.
No survivors.

聖闘士の守護者

February 20th, around 7:30 AM

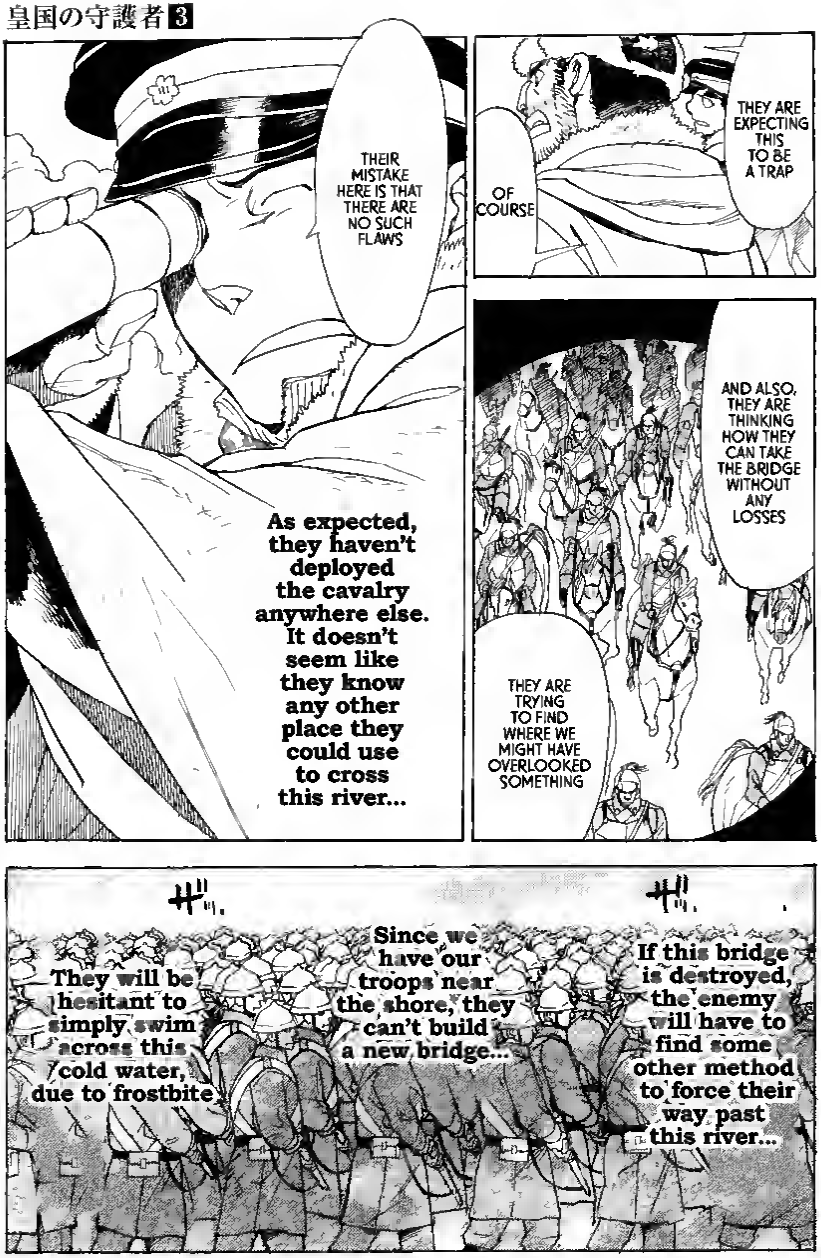
第二章

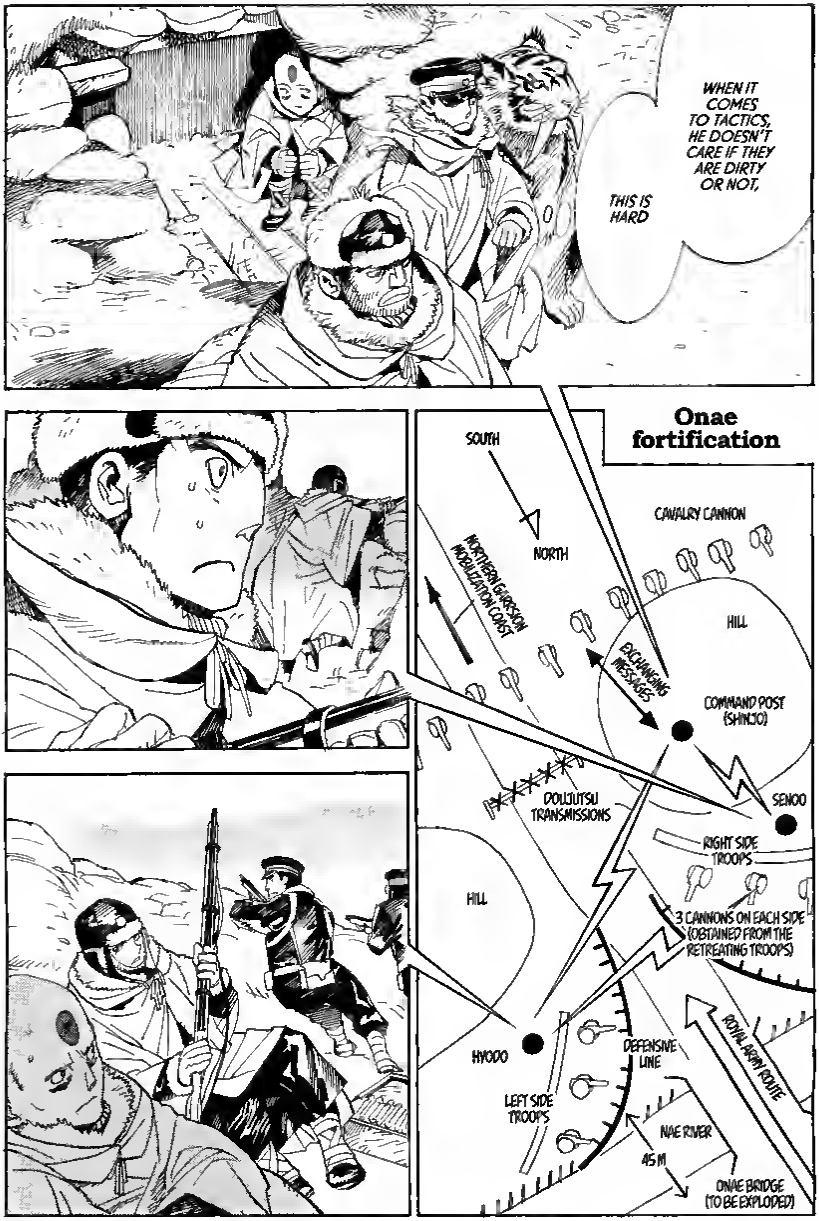
光帯の下で 5

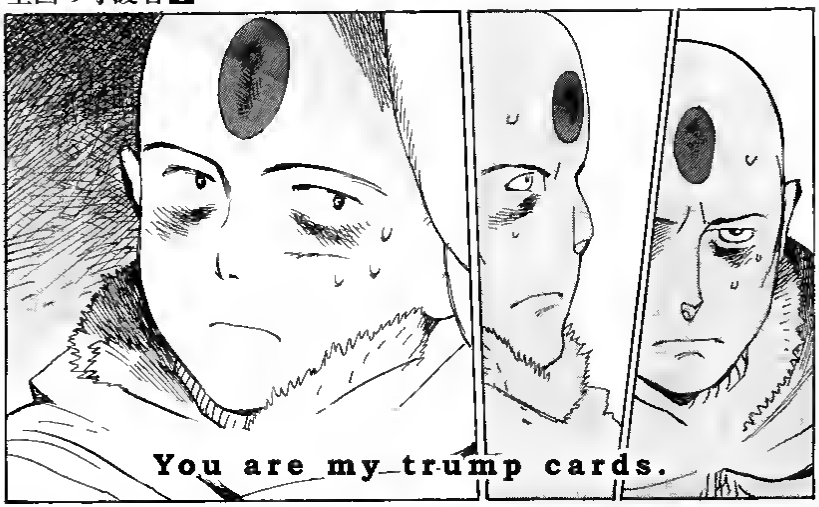
THAT ARMY LOOKS QUITE OVERWHELMING, DOESN'T IT?
IT WOULD BE NICE TO COMMAND SUCH AN IMPOSING ARMY, EVEN ONCE, DON'T YOU THINK, SERGEANT MAJOR?
HOW ARE WE DEALING WITH THIS?
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY
WE FOUGHT OUR BEST TO MAKE IT SO
THEY HAVE TO BE LACKING RESOU-RCES
BUT, WELL, THAT'S EXPECTED WHEN YOU'RE PURSUING AN ENEMY
THOSE IN THE BACK LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES
ONLY THOSE GUYS IN THE FRONT SEEM TO BE FULLY RESTED,

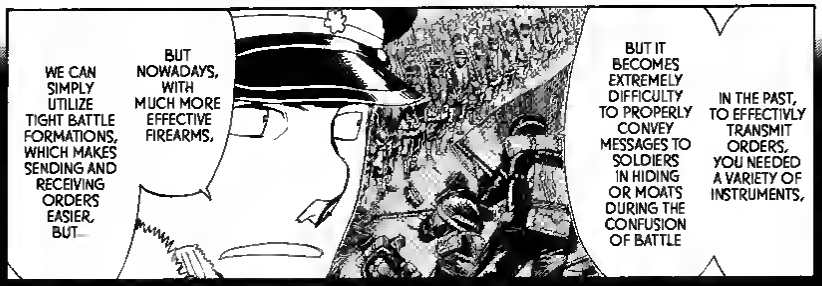
THEY HAVE AT LEAST 8,000 MEN,
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PROVISIONS FOR EVERYONE
WE'LL FIGHT THEM HERE
WE HAVE A LITTLE LESS THAN 600 MEN, JUST A SINGLE BATALLION
HOW FUN WILL THIS BE?
I WONDER

SERGEAN MAJOR,
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD URUSHIBARA? IF WE WERE TO FIGHT THEM HEAD-ON
"WE WOULDN'T LAST TWO HOURS"... WELL, IT SEEMS I WAS CORRECT
THE BRI-DGE
NOT YET...
NOW WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE HOW MUCH CAN WE EXTEND THAT TIME,
WITH THIS FORTIFIED POSITION
WE NEED TO GAIN AT LEAST 4 MORE DAYS FOR OUR MISSION TO BE SUCCESFUL
IT'S A BIT TOO EARLY TO DO IT, AND THEY ARE CERTAINLY CONSIDERING THAT POSSIBILITY

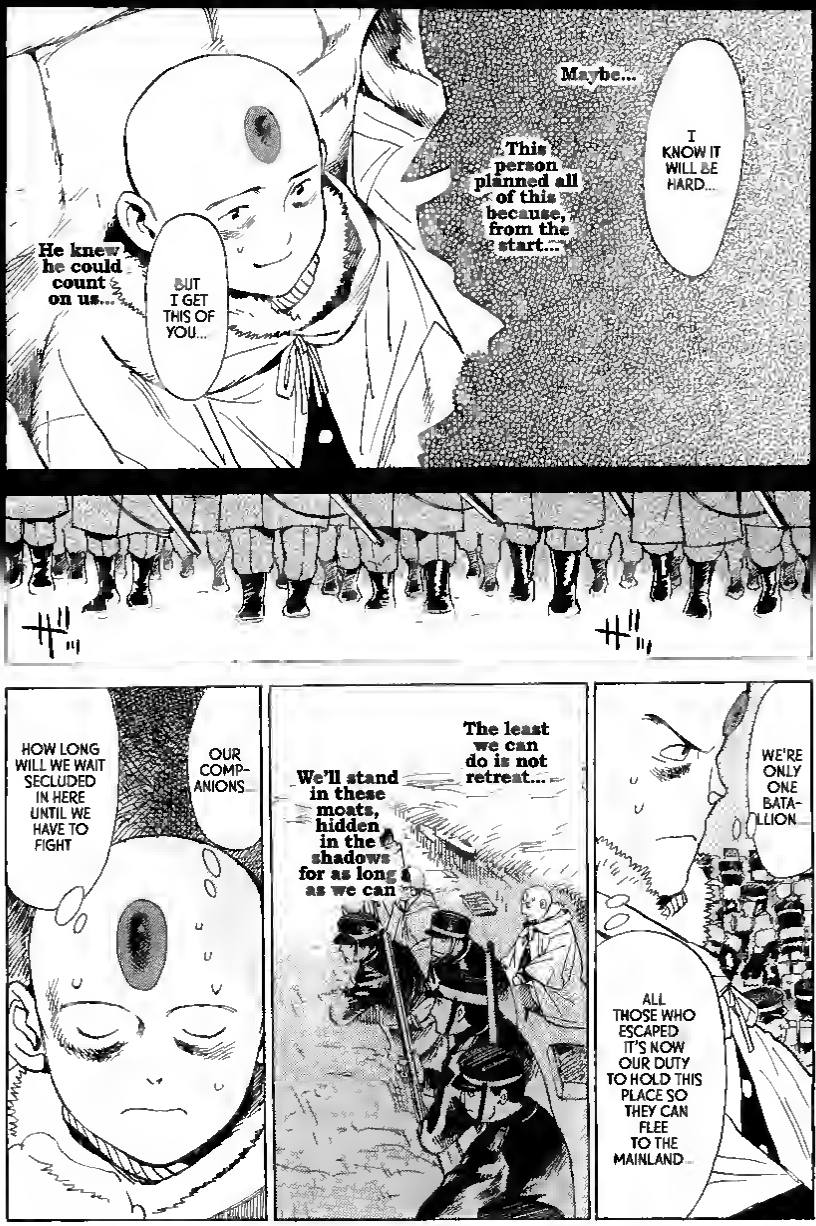

THEIR MISTAKE HERE IS THAT THERE ARE NO SUCH FLAWS
As expected, they haven't deployed the cavalry anywhere else. It doesn't seem like they know any other place they could use to cross this river...
THEY ARE EXPECTING THIS TO BE A TRAP
OF COURSE
AND ALSO, THEY ARE THINKING HOW THEY CAN TAKE THE BRIDGE WITHOUT ANY LOSSES
THEY ARE TRYING TO FIND WHERE WE MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING
They will be hesitant to simply swim across this cold water, due to frostbite
Since we have our troops near the shore, they can't build a new bridge...
If this bridge is destroyed, the enemy will have to find some other method to force their way past this river...

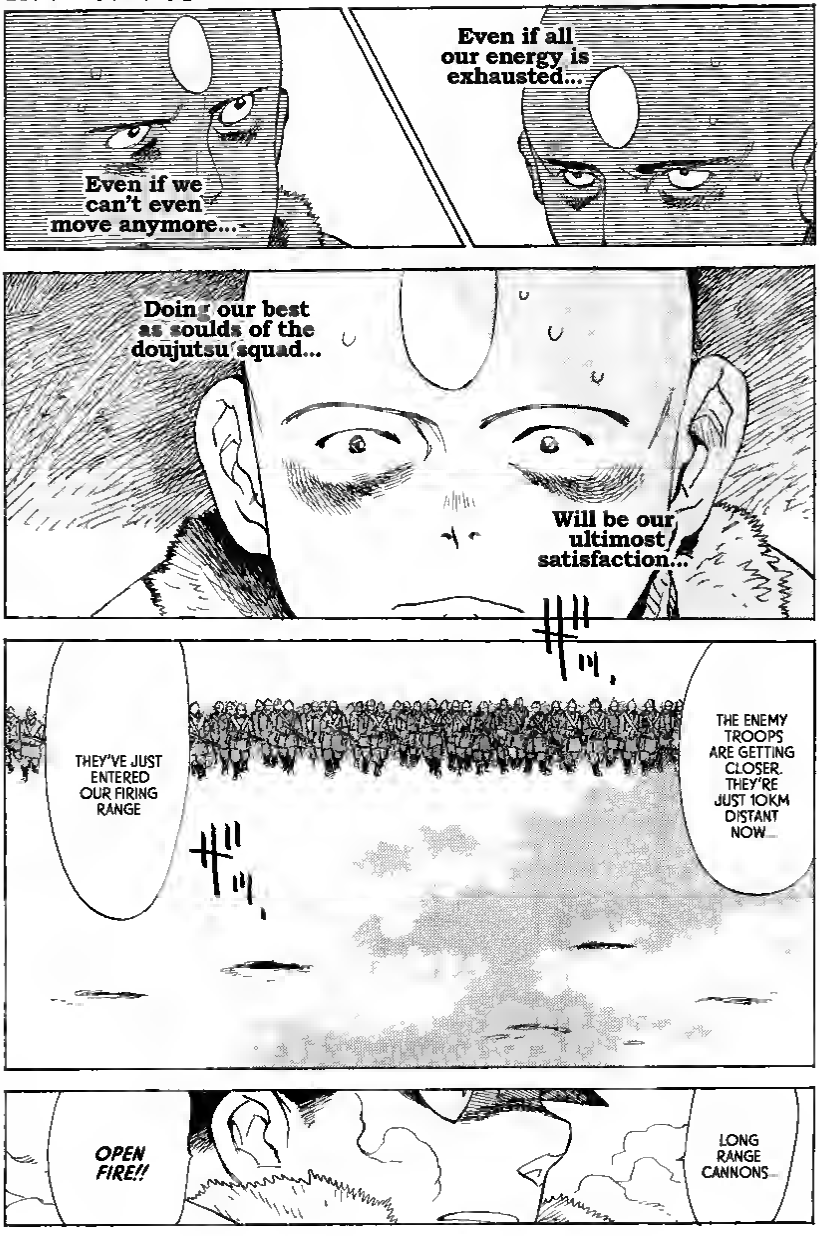

WHEN IT COMES TO TACTICS, HE DOESN'T CARE IF THEY ARE DIRTY OR NOT,
THIS IS HARD
Onae fortification
SOUTH
NORTH
NORTHERN GARRISON MOBILIZATION CORPS
CAVALRY CANNON
HILL
EXCHANGING MESSAGES
COMMAND POST (SHINJO)
SENJO
DOUJUTSU TRANSMISSIONS
RIGHT SIDE TROOPS
HILL
3 CANNONS ON EACH SIDE (OBTAINED FROM THE RETREATING TROOPS)
HYODO
DEFENSIVE LINE
ROYAL ARMY ROUTE
LEFT SIDE TROOPS
NAE RIVER
45 M
ONAE BRIDGE (TO BE EXPLODED)


You are my trump cards.


IN THE PAST, TO EFFECTIVLY TRANSMIT ORDERS, YOU NEEDED A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS,
BUT IT BECOMES EXTREMELY DIFFICULTY TO PROPERLY CONVEY MESSAGES TO SOLDIERS IN HIDING OR MOATS DURING THE CONFUSION OF BATTLE
BUT NOWADAYS, WITH MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE FIREARMS,
WE CAN SIMPLY UTILIZE TIGHT BATTLE FORMATIONS, WHICH MAKES SENDING AND RECEIVING ORDERS EASIER, BUT—

THE ENEMY HERE OUTNEMBERS US 10 TO 1. SIMPLY CROWDING IN A SINGLE POINT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SUICIDE,
BUT IF WE KEEP ALL OUR FORCES SPREAD OUT IN MOATS AND OTHER COVERED PLACES, ALL COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER, WE CAN FIGHT
YOUR ABILITIES WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR US ALL TO KEEP IN CONTACT

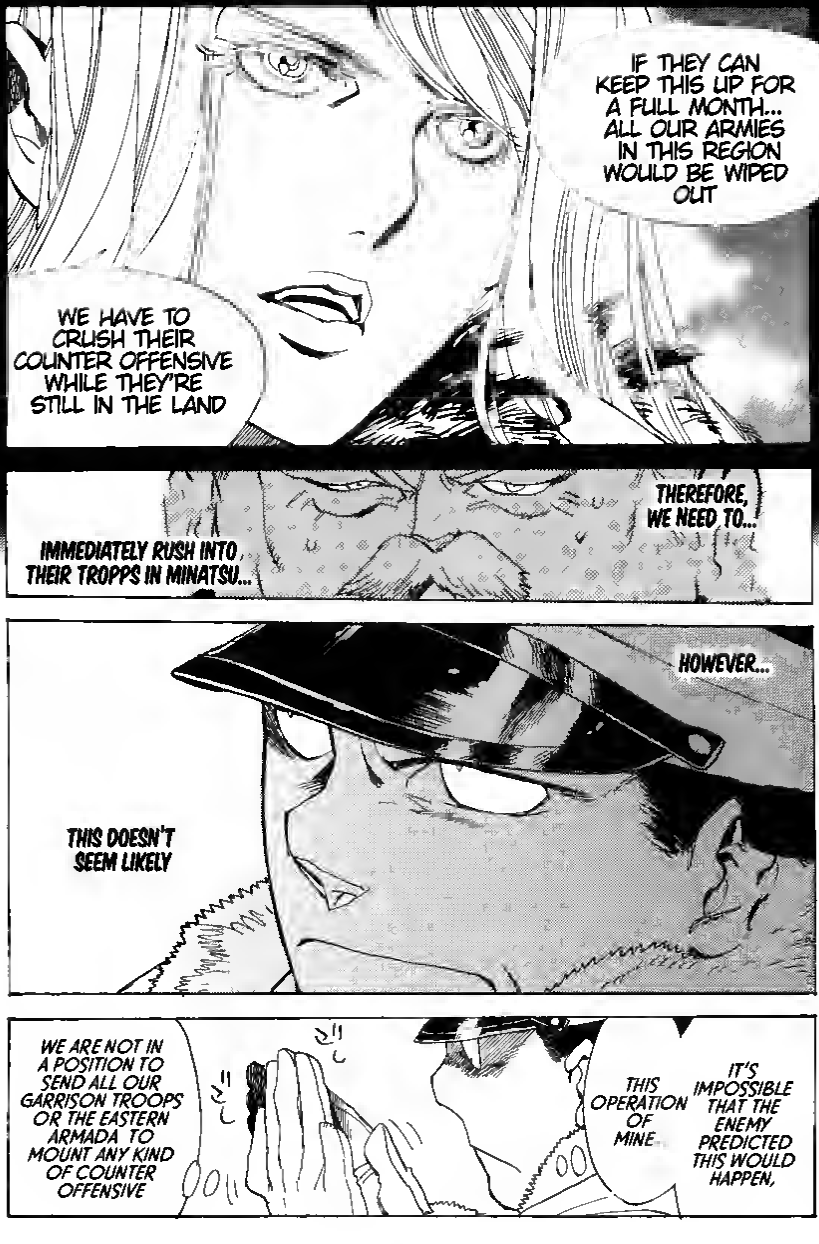

I KNOW IT WILL BE HARD...
Maybe...
This person planned all of this because, from the start...
He knew he could count on us...
BUT I GET THIS OF YOU...
WE'RE ONLY ONE BATA-LLION...
ALL THOSE WHO ESCAPED IT'S NOW OUR DUTY TO HOLD THIS PLACE SO THEY CAN FLEE TO THE MAINLAND...
The least we can do is not retreat...
We'll stand in these moats, hidden in the shadows for as long as we can
OUR COMP-ANIONS...
HOW LONG WILL WE WAIT SECLUDED IN HERE UNTIL WE HAVE TO FIGHT


Even if all our energy is exhausted...
Even if we can't even move anymore...
Doing our best as soulds of the doujutsu squad...
Will be our ultimost satisfaction...
THEY'VE JUST ENTERED OUR FIRING RANGE
THE ENEMY TROOPS ARE GETTING CLOSER. THEY'RE JUST 10KM DISTANT NOW...
OPEN FIRE!!
LONG RANGE CANNONS...

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, RETREAT?
HURRY UP AND READY OUR ARTILLERY
THE ENEMY IS COUNTER ATTACKING WITH ARTILLERY
I HAVE A MESSAGE!
THE 18TH JAEGER REGIMEN,. 37TH JAEGER BATALLION AND JAEGER COMPANIES 1 TO 3 HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!!
AHH, SO WE ARE UNDER FIRE...
THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

I DON'T CARE. SEND THE 18TH JAEGER REGIMENT AND CONTINUE THE ADVANCE, NOW!
AND IF THEY BLOW UP THE BRIDGE, I WANT IMEDIATE MOBILIZATION TO CROSS THE RIVER AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE BEACHHEAD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,
ALL ARTILLERY SHOULD GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO OUR TROOPS. THAT IS ALL
DOES THAT NOT TROUBLE YOU?
OUR LOSSES WILL BE INCREASED, YURI...
OUR SUPPLY TRAIN IS IN DISORDER,
OUR VANGUARD IS IN GOOD FORM, BUT OUR MAIN TROOPS HAVEN'T EVEN EATEN PROPERLY TODAY
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY...
YES, SIR!
He wants us to charge towards that heavy fire?!

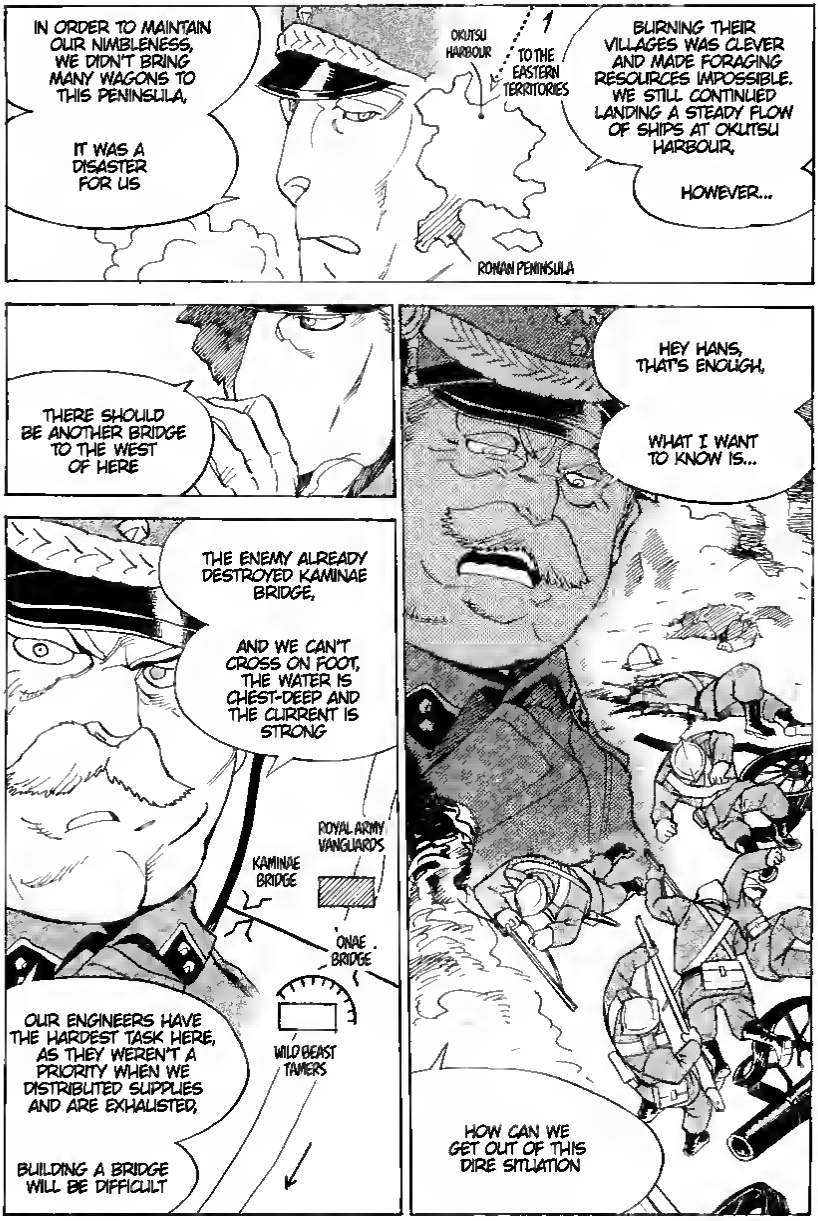
We must hurry... I worry about Major general Schwerin"...
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES,
WE CANNOT FAIL TO MEET HER HIGHNESS' EXPECTATIONS!
FOR EXAMPLE, THEY COULD USE TRANSPORT SHIPS TO CARRY THEIR TROOPS AROUND OUR FORCES AND ATTACK US FROM BEHIND
THE ENEMY FLEET CAN MOBILIZE THE MAJORITY OF THEIR POWER TOWARDS THE NORTH COAST AND BLOCKADE THE HARBORS
ROYAL ARMY SUPPLY LINES
IMPERIAL EASTERN OCEAN ARMADA
NORTHERN GARRISONS
ROYAL EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORY ARMIES
MAINLAND
IN DOING SO, THEY COULD CUT OFF OUR REINFORCEMENTS AND RESOURCES. THEY COULD CAPTURE THOSE, OR SIMPLY SINK OUR SHIPS. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WOULD COMPLETELY SEVER OUR SUPPLY LINE
OUR ENEMIES'S PLAN SHOULD BE TO RUN ALONGSIDE THE NAE RIVER AND SET UP ENCAMPMENTS AROUND ONAE,
AND THEN AFTER EXHAUSTING OUR ARMY, TO COUNTER ATTACK WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT


IF THEY CAN KEEP THIS UP FOR A FULL MONTH... ALL OUR ARMIES IN THIS REGION WOULD BE WIPED OUT
WE HAVE TO CRUSH THEIR COUNTER OFFENSIVE WHILE THEY'RE STILL IN THE LAND
THEREFORE, WE NEED TO...
IMMEDIATELY RUSH INTO THEIR TROPPS IN MINATSU...
HOWEVER...
THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY
WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SEND ALL OUR GARRISON TROOPS OR THE EASTERN ARMADA TO MOUNT ANY KIND OF COUNTER OFFENSIVE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE ENEMY PREDICTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN,
THIS OPERATION OF MINE

MAYBE BACK THEN...
YOU WILL ALWAYS NEED SOMEONE HIGHER RANKED IN THE ARMY TO BELIEVE THE SAME THINGS AS YOU...
THAT IS THE REALITY OF A MILITARY ORGANIZATION
SO, OF COURSE, THERE'S NO PLANS TO COUNTER ATTACK FOR NOW
IN THE GARRISON HEARDQUARTERS... PROBABLY, GENERAL MORIHARA...
"I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THAT...."
AFTER THE DEFEAT IN TENROU, HE IMMEDIATELLY LOST ALL WILL TO FIGHT AND PUSHED FOR A FULL RETREAT
?
UNDER THAT LEADERSHIP, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WE WOULDN'T EVER CONSIDER A COUNTER ATTACK

COMM-
ANDER?
SHIT!!
ONCE THIS IS OVER, WE NEED TO CARRY OUT SOME SORT OF LARGE OPERATION BUT IS THERE EVEN A POSSIBILITY OF THAT HAPPENING?
HUH?
AH... I WAS JUST GETTING A BIT LOST IN THOUGHT

HEY... THAT HOWL... THIS MEANS THAT THE TIGERS ARE CONTROLLED....
BY THOSE
WILD BEAST TAMERS?!
YOU SEEM BORED
THEY SET UP AMBUSHES, NIGHT RAIDS AND SURPRISE ATTACKS, AS WELL AS BURNING THEIR OWN VILLAGES, AND NOW THEY'VE PREPARED THIS CAMP SO QUICKLY
HUH?
ARE THEY SKILLED ENOUGH TO HAVE DONE ALL THAT?
THAT'S EXACTLY IT, YURI,
ALL OTHER TROOPS HAVE ALREADY RETREATED TO THE COAST
THOSE BASTARDS ARE A PROBLEM, HANS


IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR NIMBLENESS, WE DIDN'T BRING MANY WAGONS TO THIS PENINSULA,
IT WAS A DISASTER FOR US
OKUTSU HARBOUR
1
TO THE EASTERN TERRITORIES
ROHAN PENINSULA
BURNING THEIR VILLAGES WAS CLEVER AND MADE FORAGING RESOURCES IMPOSSIBLE. WE STILL CONTINUED LANDING A STEADY FLOW OF SHIPS AT OKUTSU HARBOUR,
HOWEVER...
THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER BRIDGE TO THE WEST OF HERE
THE ENEMY ALREADY DESTROYED KAMINAE BRIDGE,
AND WE CAN'T CROSS ON FOOT, THE WATER IS CHEST-DEEP AND THE CURRENT IS STRONG
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARDS
KAMINAE BRIDGE
ONAE BRIDGE
WILD BEAST TAMERS
OUR ENGINEERS HAVE THE HARDEST TASK HERE, AS THEY WEREN'T A PRIORITY WHEN WE DISTRIBUTED SUPPLIES AND ARE EXHAUSTED,
BUILDING A BRIDGE WILL BE DIFFICULT
HEY HANS, THAT'S ENOUGH,
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS...
HOW CAN WE GET OUT OF THIS DIRE SITUATION

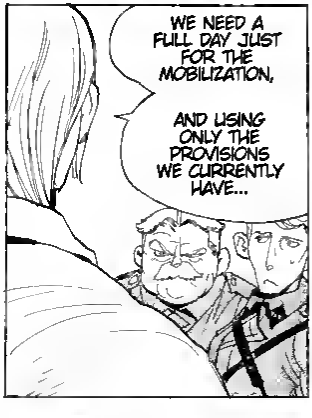
AND THAT'S THE REASON WE CAN'T DO THAT,
THE REGIMENT COMMANDER... COLONEL KAMINSKY IS A GREAT PERSON
I CANNOT LET HIM BE PROMOTED EVEN FURTHER AFTER THIS
EVEN NOW, UNDER THIS SITUATION
CAVALRY?
WE CAN'T DO THAT!
DO NOT CALL HIM!!
OUR CAVALRY MIGHT BE EXHALISTED,
BUT WE COULD HAVE THEM CIRCUMVENT THE ENEMY AND TAKE THEM FROM BEHIND
AND WHILE THEY'RE DEALING WITH THE SURPRISE ATTACK, WE CAN ALSO SEND A DIRECT ATTACK FROM THE FRONT
Abusing his position as her 'lover'...
No... I won't criticize the princess any further
ANYWAYS, CURRENTLY WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH RATIONS TO SEPARATE OUR FORCES
WE COULD END UP NOT HAVING ENOUGH TO EAT

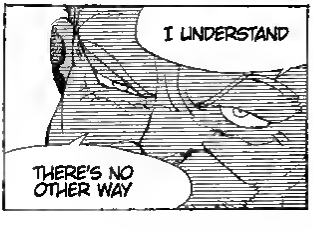
UWAAAAHHH!!!
ISN'T OUR ARTILLERY READY YET?!
HURRY UP AND COVER OUR SOLDIER'S ADVANCE!!
ADVANCE, ADVANCE, ADVANCE, ADVANCE!
CROSS IT WITHOUT STOPPING! HURRY UP, DOUBLE TIME!!
THE ENEMY CANNONS ARE RELOADING!
UHHGHH!
AA, AHH!
AHH!
SECOND WAVE, GO!!

IS THIS GOOD?!
THE BRIDGE...
HAS BEEN DEST-ROYED!!
THEY KEEP TAKING LOSSES AS BIG AS THIS ONE...
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE FINE?!
HANS...
PREPARE EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR THE PINCER OPERATION YOU PROPOSED
HOWEVER... HER HIGHNESS' ORDERS ARE TO KEEP ATTACKING

WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED PROVISIONS, YOUR EXCELLENCY
OUR HORSES ARE HUNGRY. WE CANNOT EXECUTE SUCH AN ATTACK

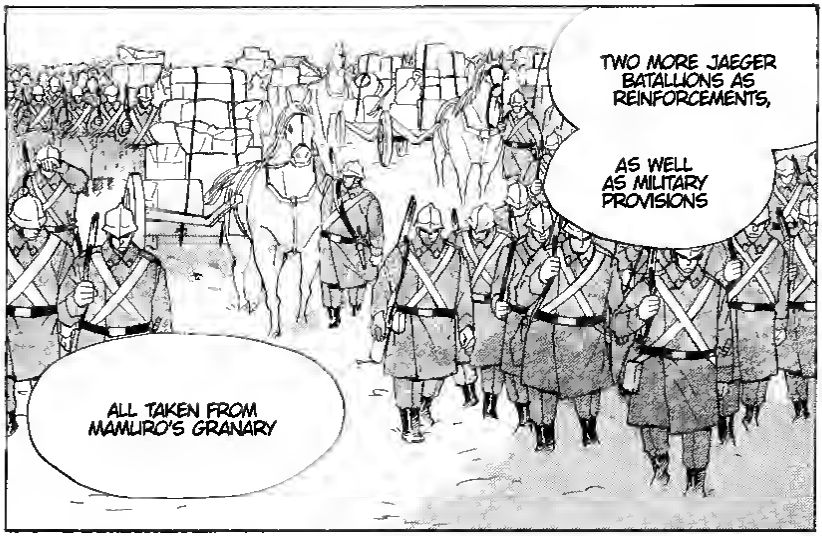
BUT THEN, WE CANOT MOBILIZE MORE THAN BATALLIONS,
ACCORDING TO OUR SCOUTS, THERE ARE A BIT LESS THAN 600 ENEMY TROOPS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BRIDGE
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS WILL WORK. THE RISK IS TOO HIGH,
IT'S UNTHINKABLE TO ATTEMPT THIS WHEN IF CANNOT MOBILIZE THE ENTIRE REGIMENT

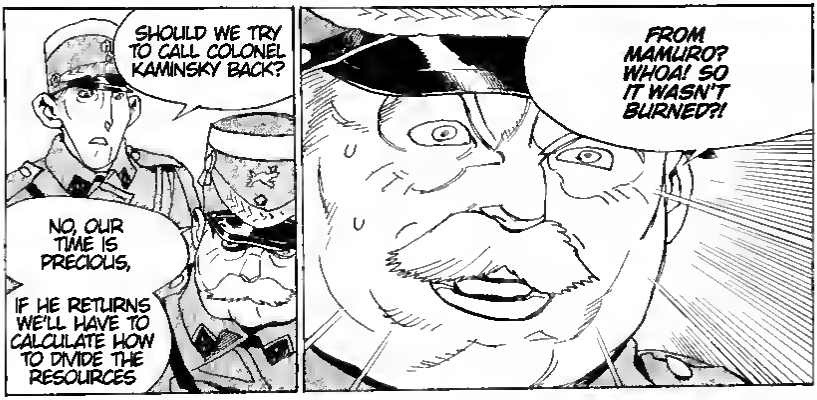

WE NEED A FULL DAY JUST FOR THE MOBILIZATION,
AND USING ONLY THE PROVISIONS WE CURRENTLY HAVE...

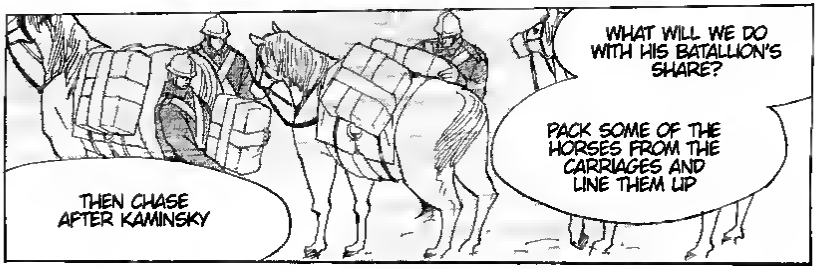

I UNDERSTAND
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY

YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY
HE JUST WANTS TO FORCE THIS UNREASONABLE ORDER ON ME...
SUCH INCOMPETENCE...
I DON'T WANT TO SAY THIS, BUT....
THIS IS AN ORDER, COLONEL
I REQUEST THIS ORDER TO BE IN WRITING AND ARCHIVED,
I'LL SORTIE WHEN READY
HOWEVER, I WISH THAT YOU KEEP IN MIND A PETTY OFFICIAL WAS AGAINST YOUR PLANS
TO HIS EXCELLENCY
IT'S ALREADY AFTERNOON...
THEY NEED TO COVER AS MUCH DISTANCE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE WINTERY SUNSET...

AFTER REEXAMINING OUR SITUATION, WE'VE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT OUR CURRENT SUPPLIES ARE BARELY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ONE BATALLION...!
I BELIEVE IT WILL BE EXHAUSTED SOON AFTER WE CROSS THE RIVER...
2PM. THIRD HUSSAR REGIMENT, 1ST BATALLION SORTIES.
YURI! THERE'S A DELIVERY
2:30 PM


TWO MORE JAEGER BATALLIONS AS REINFORCEMENTS,
AS WELL AS MILITARY PROVISIONS
ALL TAKEN FROM MAMLIRO'S GRANARY


SHOULD WE TRY TO CALL COLONEL KAMINSKY BACK?
NO, OUR TIME IS PRECIOUS,
IF HE RETURNS WE'LL HAVE TO CALCULATE HOW TO DIVIDE THE RESOURCES
FROM MAMLIRO? WHOA! SO IT WASN'T BURNED?!


WHAT WILL WE DO WITH HIS BATALLION'S SHARE?
PACK SOME OF THE HORSES FROM THE CARRIAGES AND LINE THEM UP
THEN CHASE AFTER KAMINSKY

SEND THE MEN WHO ARRIVED TO COMBAT AT ONCE
WE NEED TO PRESERVE OUR HEAVY CAVALRY REGIMENT FOR PURSUING THE ENEMY ONCE WE BREAK THROUGH THIS ENCAMPMENT
SHOULD IT HAVE AN ESCORT?
IMPOS-SIBLE,
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN TO SPARE
BUT ONCE NIGHT ARRIVES, SEND THE SURVIVING HUSSARS AS REINFORCEMENTS FOR KAMINSKY,
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MESSENGER?
THE BEST TIME FOR THE RESOURCES TO REACH KAMINSKY IS TOMORROW, PAST NOON
HE WILL BE IN THE OPPOSITE SHORE PAST KAMINAE
COLONEL KAMINSKY SHOULD THEN ACT ACCORDING TO HOW THE BATTLE PROGRESSES

YOU FORGOT ABOUT MAMURO
YOU'VE BEEN CARELESS, WILD BEAST TAMERS,
IT'S MY TURN TO LAUGH NOW...
THIS ENCAMPMENT WILL BE YOUR GRAVE
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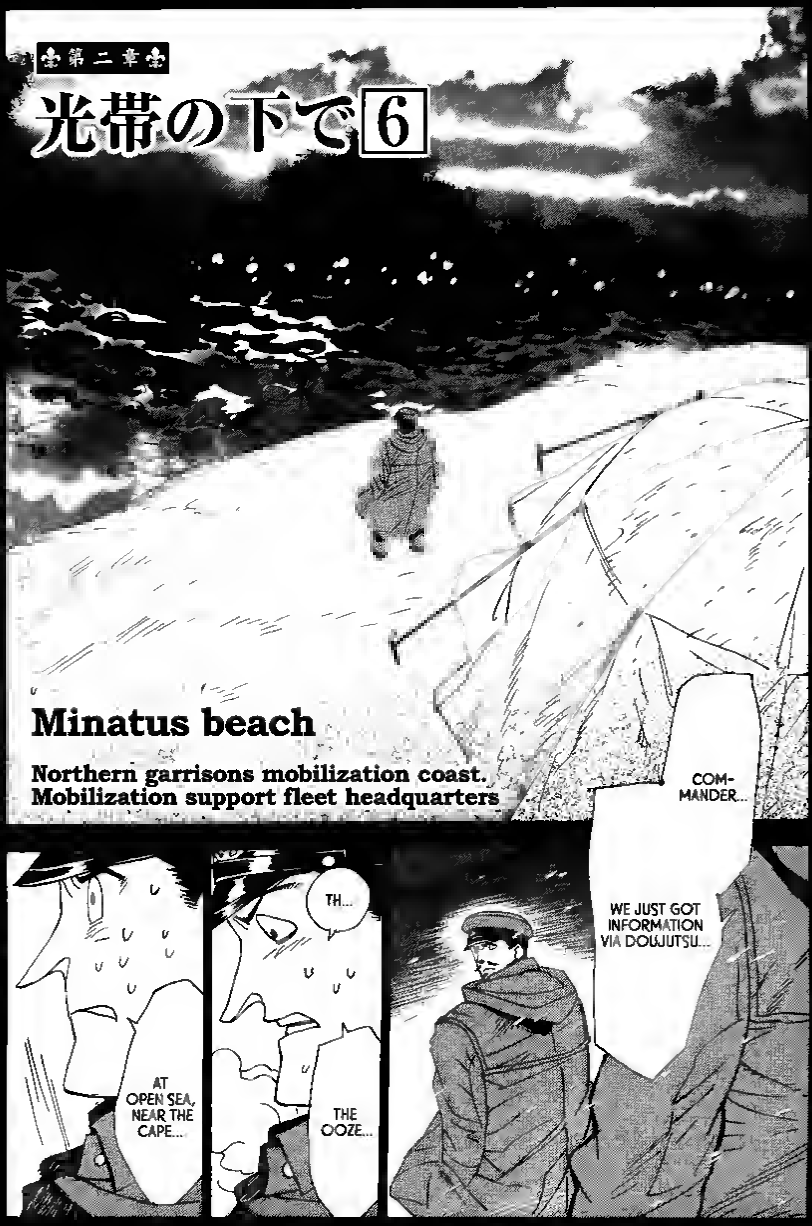
皇国の守護者

editor **JAC**
translator **DiamondEdge**
cleaner/type **M3OW**


第二章
光帯の下で6
Minatus beach
Northern garrisons mobilization coast.
Mobilization support fleet headquarters
COM-
MANDER...
WE JUST GOT
INFORMATION
VIA DOWJUTSU...
TH...
THE
OOZE...
AT
OPEN SEA,
NEAR THE
CAPE...

WAS SUNK...
YES, IT WAS SUNK
TSUBOTA!
COM-MANDER— THE GRANARY AT MAMURO WAS NOT ATTACKED
SO, IT HAS FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE ROYAL ARMY

WE NEED TO INFORM CAPTAIN SHINJO AND HIS BATALLION.
WE STILL HAVE DOUJUTSU SOLDIERS ALIVE, RIGHT? CALL THEM AT ONCE!
YES!
ハッハッ
COM-MAN-DER...
IT'S USE-LESS...

WE'VE LOST OUR MEANS TO CONTACT THE OTHER BATTALIONS
THE LAST DOUJUTSU SOLDIER IS UNCONSCIOUS
THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE HIDING TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES
WE STILL HAVEN'T SUFFERED ANY LOSSES FROM THE ENEMY'S SHOOTING
I FEEL THE SAME IT SEEMS
NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY KEEP SHOOTING, WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF!!
WE CAN DO IT!

THAT WE CAN HOLD THIS JUST FINE FOR THE PLANNED FOUR DAYS, MAYBE EVEN FIVE
AT LEAST UNTIL OUR ALLIES HAVE SUCESSFULY EVACUATED
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WHY?!
HOW CAN THEY KEEP THEIR SOILDERS AND CANNONS HIDDEN FOR SO LONG?!

HOW ARE THEY COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER?!
REST UP...

AND BESIDES, FROM NOW ON, THINGS WILL ONLY GET WORSE, AND I WILL HAVE TO RELY ON HIM MUCH MORE
HONESTLY, I'D LIKE TO HAVE HIM UP FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT
THAT'S UNREASONABLE
THEY'LL GO UPSTREAM, TO KAMINAE, AND ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE RIVER THERE
KAMINAE
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD
ONAE
ONCE THEY CANNOT THINK OF OTHER WAYS TO CROSS THE RIVER FROM HERE, CERTAINLY...
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SABERTOOTH SQUAD 11TH BATALLION
NAE RIVER
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON DOUJUTSU TO MONITOR AND DEAL WITH THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS
WE DON'T HAVE MANY OPTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO OUR POWER. THIS IS EVERYTHING WE HAVE, AND WE WON'T BE RECEIVING MORE SOLDIERS...

THERE'S GUNSMOKE COMING FROM BEHIND THE ENEMY TROOPS!
FINALLY...
GET TO COVER!
THE ROYAL GUNNERS FINISHED THEIR PREPARATIONS
DON'T RUSH, DON'T RUSH!
DON'T RISK HURTING YOUR FEET OUT TO FEAR!!
MEOW

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DOES THAT MEAN THE ENEMY DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH BUCKSHOT AMMO?
CHIHAYA...
STILL, I'M THANKFUL FOR THAT

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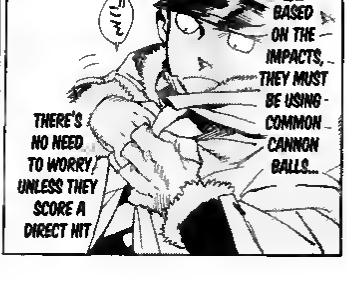
ビル!
ビル!
AS EXPECTED, THEY SEEM TO BE TARGETTING THE COMMAND POST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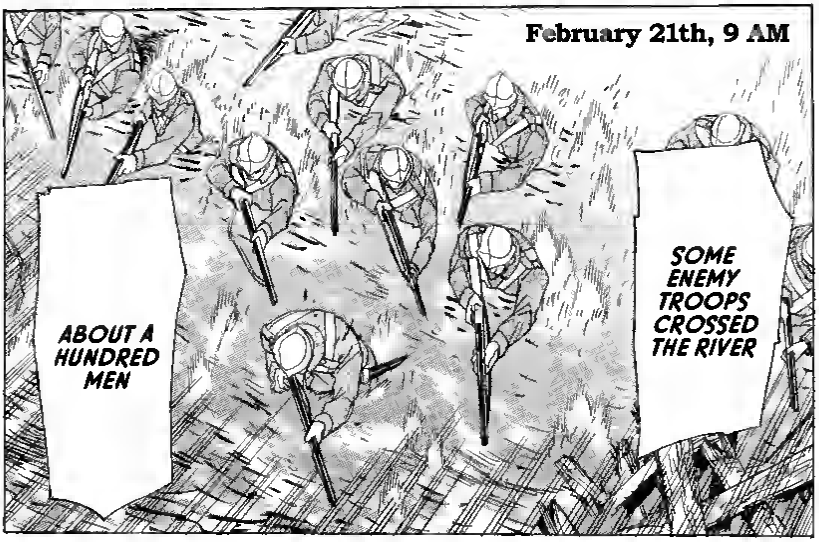
BASED ON THE IMPACTS, THEY MUST BE USING COMMON CANNON BALLS...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, UNLESS THEY SCORE A DIRECT HIT

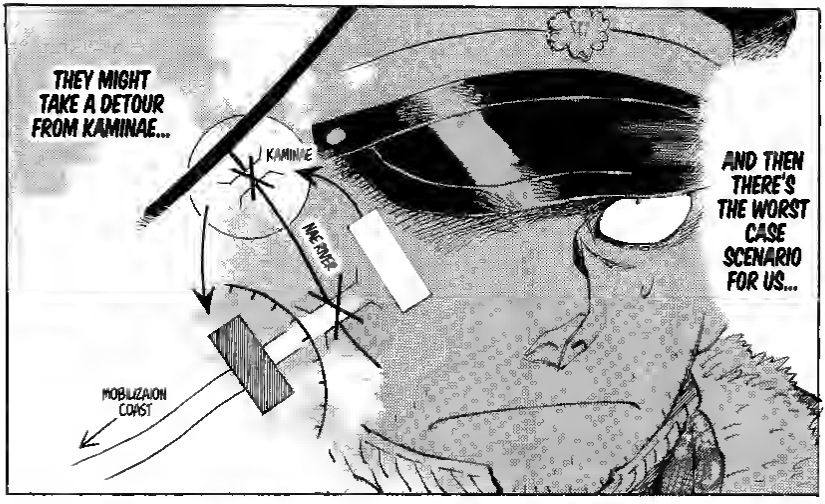
THE CURTAIN IS RISING
ALRIGHT, THE REAL BATTLE TO DEFEND THIS RIVER CAMP BEGINS NOW
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE
WE'LL DO THIS SOMEHOW, AS WE ALWAYS DO
HOW RARE, ARE YOU SCARED AS WELL?
THE COMMANDER IS SMILING


February 21th, 9 AM
SOME ENEMY TROOPS CROSSED THE RIVER
ABOUT A HUNDRED MEN

WE CAN SEND SOME TROOPS TO HOLD THEM OFF
WE CAN HOLD OFF THEIR COUNTERATTACK BY SENDING THOSE RESERVES FIRST
SEND THE RESERVE CORPS
BUT, ISN'T IT A BIT TOO SOON TO SHOW THEM THOSE TROOPS?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. AS LONG AS THERE ARE SOLDIERS FROM BOTH SIDES ON THE RIVERBANK, THEY WON'T FIRE THEIR CANNONS

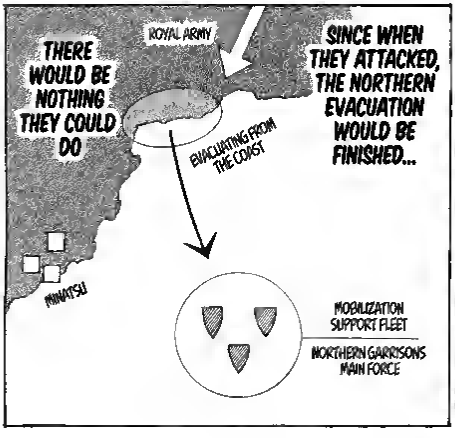
SEEING US FORCED TO SEND THOSE TROOPS INTO BATTLE, THEY WILL THINK WE ARE ALREADY CORNERED...
SHOWING THE PRESENCE OF THE RESERVE CORPS...
SO LET'S "SHOW" THEM, HERE AND NOW, THAT WE HAVE THOSE TROOPS AVAILABLE
HURRY UP
AND IN THAT CASE, THE ENEMY MAY UNDERESTIMATE US
AND ALL WE WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IS EXHAUSTING THEIR SOLDIERS
IF THEY KEEP SENDING TROOPS WITHOUT PAUSE, WE WILL BE CRUSHED

ASSUMING THAT SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS, AND WE ARE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT...
BELIEVING OUR POWER IS ACTUALLY GREATER THAN THEIR SCOUTING REPORTED, OR EVEN THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER FORCE DETACHED SOMEWHERE
OR POSSIBLY, AFTER SEEING OUR RESERVE TROOPS, THE ENEMY MAY OVERESTIMATE US...
STILL, OUR ENEMIES MAY BE WEAKENED ENOUGH THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT TROOPS TO SEND TO THE COAST
BATTLE IN ONAE
NAE
MINATSU BEACH-MOBILIZATION COAST
IN THAT CASE, THEY MAY EVEN SUSPEND THE OFFENSIVE


THEY MIGHT TAKE A DETOUR FROM KAMINAE...
KAMINAE
NAE RIVER
MOBILIZAION COAST
AND THEN THERE'S THE WORST CASE SCENARIO FOR US...

THAT TIME WOULD BE PRECIOUS TO US...
THEIR PREPARTIONS WOULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS

THEY WOULD PUT MOST OF THEIR EFFORTS IN COLLECTING RESOURCES...
BUT IN THAT CASE, IF THEIR COMMANDER IS PRUNDENT, THEY WOULD WEAKEN THEIR ATTACK HERE...


THERE WOULD BE NOTHING THEY COULD DO
ROYAL ARMY
EVACUATING FROM THE COAST
SINCE WHEN THEY ATTACKED, THE NORTHERN EVACUATION WOULD BE FINISHED...
MINATSU
MOBILIZATION SUPPORT FLEET
NORTHERN GARRISONS MAIN FORCE

WERNER!!
GUHH!
WHICHEVER OF THESE SCENARIOS HAPPENS, OUR MISSION WILL BE SUCESSFUL
FORGET IT!
HE'S ALREADY DEAD!!
MOVE ON!
THERE'S NO PROBLEM IN SHOWING THEM THE RESERVE CORPS
RUN!
RUN!

MY LEGS ARE FREEZING
RUN!
RUN!
THE RIVER'S WATER IS SO COLD, I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CUT
THOSE PARALYSED WITH FEAR ARE SHOT
RUN!!
RUN!
THERE ARE THOSE FALLING, THEIR HEART STOPS BEATING INSTANTLY
EVEN THOUGH THIS IS SUCH A SHALLOW RIVER...
WHY?!
DOES THE COAST LOOK SO FAR?!

OVER THERE...
ビュー
I CAN'T FEEL MY TOES ANYMORE
AND WHEN WE FINALLY ARRIVE AT THE COAST, THE COLD WIND WILL NOT BE MERCIFUL...
KEEP AT IT!
THE LOWER HALF OF OUR BODIES WILL BE FROZEN IN AN INSTANT
ALL AT ONCE, FIRE!!

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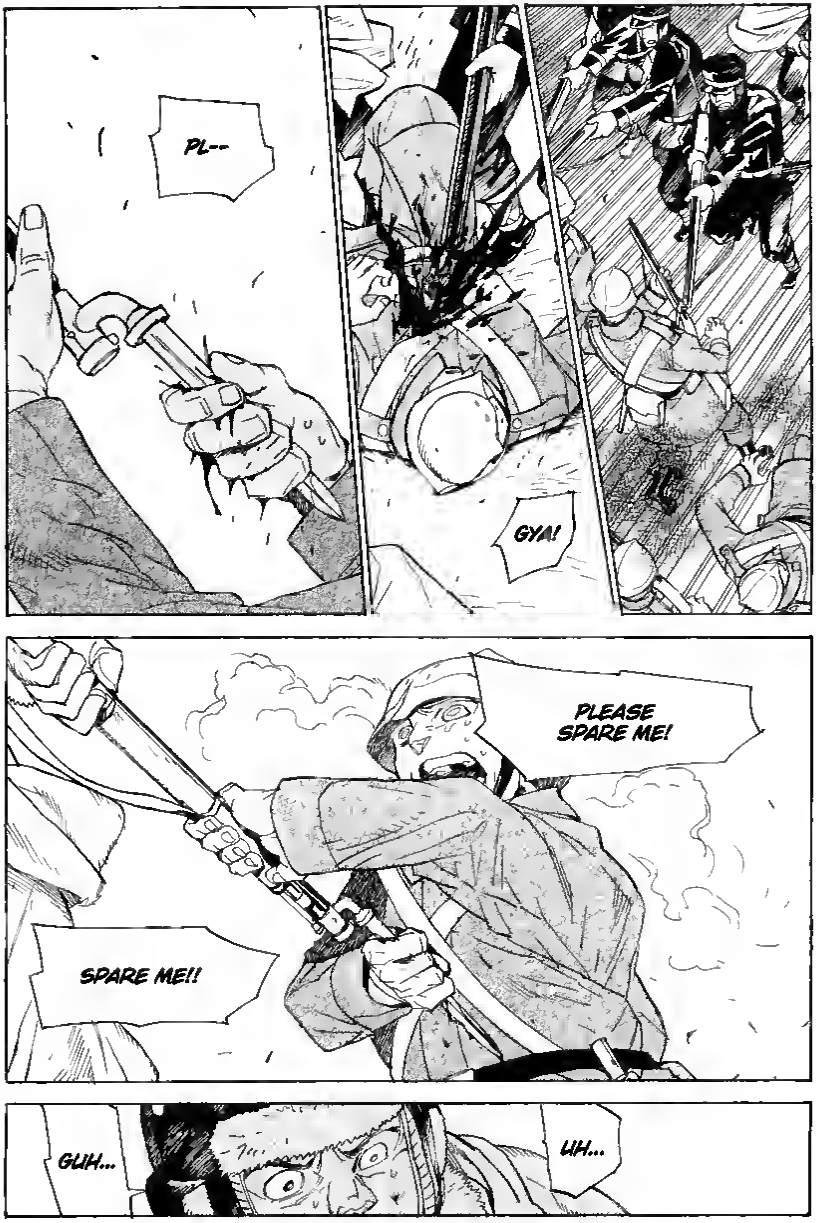
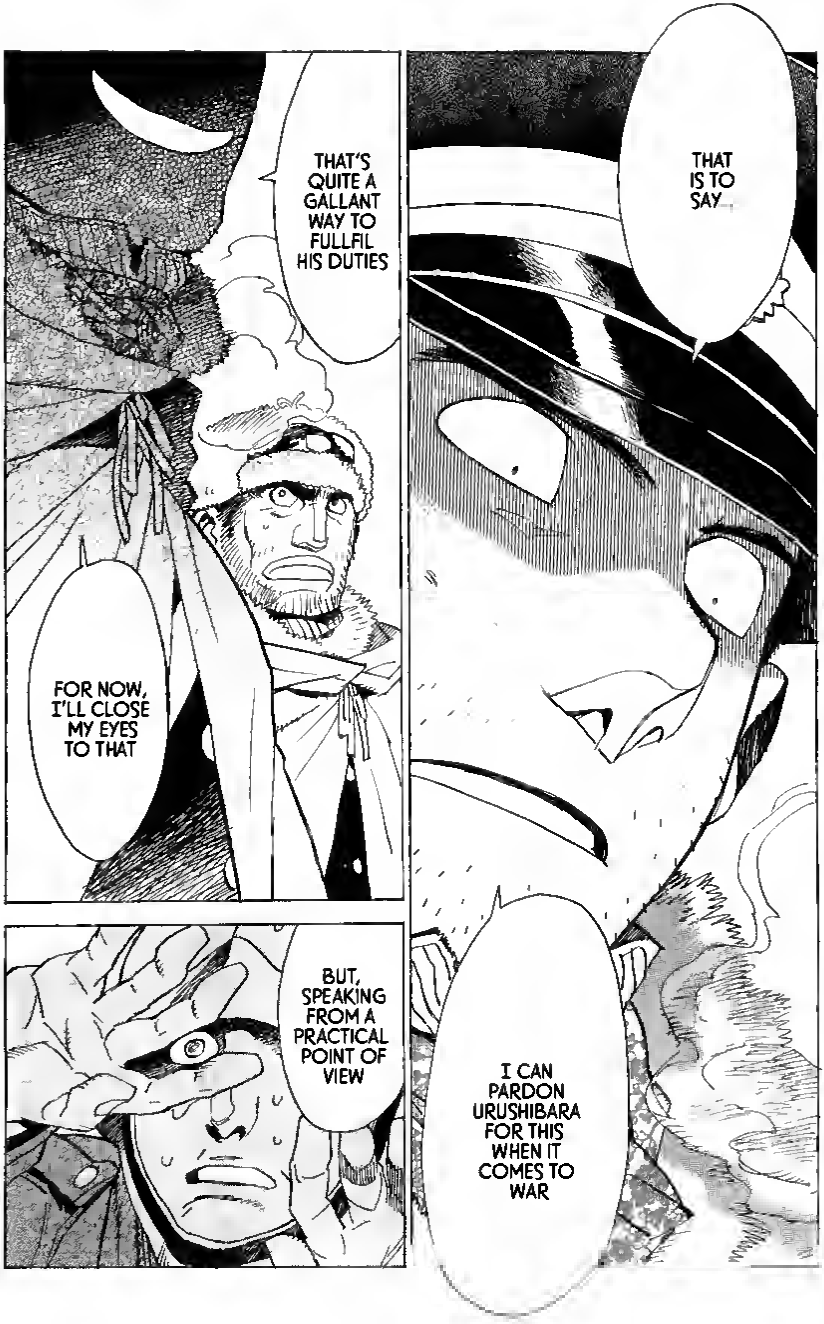
ギュン
STOOOP!
THEY ARE ALMOST FREEZING TO DEATH, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID!
RESERVE CORPS, CHARGE!!

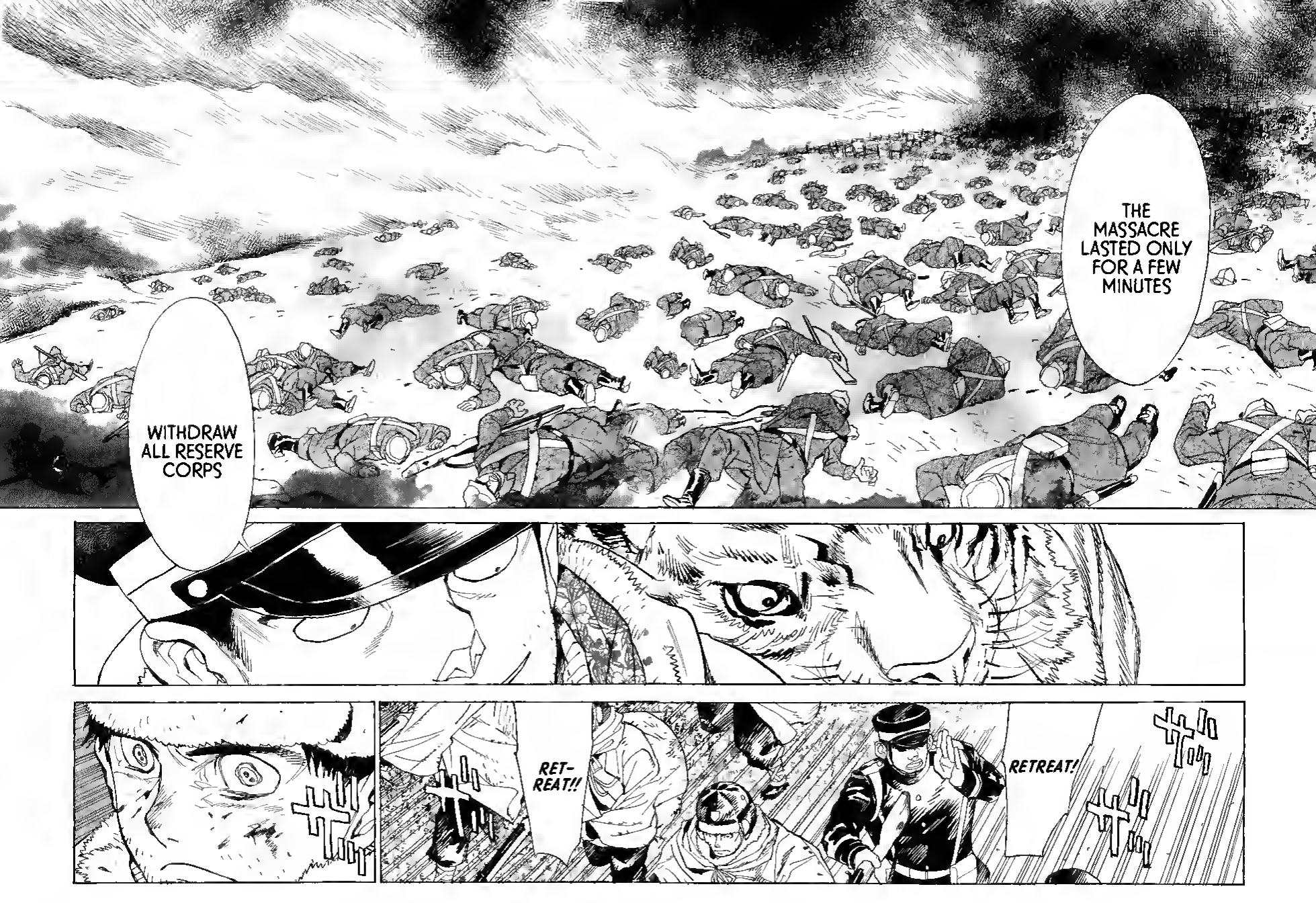

PL--
GYA!
PLEASE SPARE ME!
SPARE ME!!
GUH...
UH...

ズン
ドゴ
YOU IDIOT!
DO NOT HESITATE! OR YOU WILL BE KILLED!!

IT SEEMS URUSHIBARA SURVIVED
THIS IS GOING WELL
ALL RIGHT
WHILE I HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ME AND THE SQUAD, I CANNOT KILL AN ENEMY
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO DIE IN BATTLE NOW
EVEN IF WE BECOME NAUSEATED WITH BLOOD
JUST LIKE THIS
WE HAVE TO KEEP STRUGGLING


THAT'S QUITE A GALLANT WAY TO FULLFIL HIS DUTIES
FOR NOW, I'LL CLOSE MY EYES TO THAT
BUT, SPEAKING FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW
THAT IS TO SAY...
I CAN PARDON URUSHIBARA FOR THIS WHEN IT COMES TO WAR

HE'S ONE OF OUR FEW OFFICERS THAT WOULD BE...
VERY TROUBLESOME TO HAVE IN A PROLONGED STATE OF DEPRESSION


THE MASSACRE LASTED ONLY FOR A FEW MINUTES
WITHDRAW ALL RESERVE CORPS
RET-REAT!!
RETREAT!

SEEING THE BATTLE RESULTS, THOSE LOSSES ARE MINIMAL...
PERHAPS ONE MIGHT HAVE SAID:
NINE MEN, ALL DEAD
NINE SOL-DIERS
HOW MANY LOSSES?
MAYBE THAT COULD ALSO BE SAID
"EVERYTHING IS GOING SMOOTHLY!"

BUT, NEXT TIME...

PUNISHMENT FOR MY OVERCONFIDENCE IS QUICKLY APPROACHING

Royal Army,
3rd Eastern Territories Heavy Cavalry Regiment,
1st batallion
Arrived at the river
crossing point at kaminae.

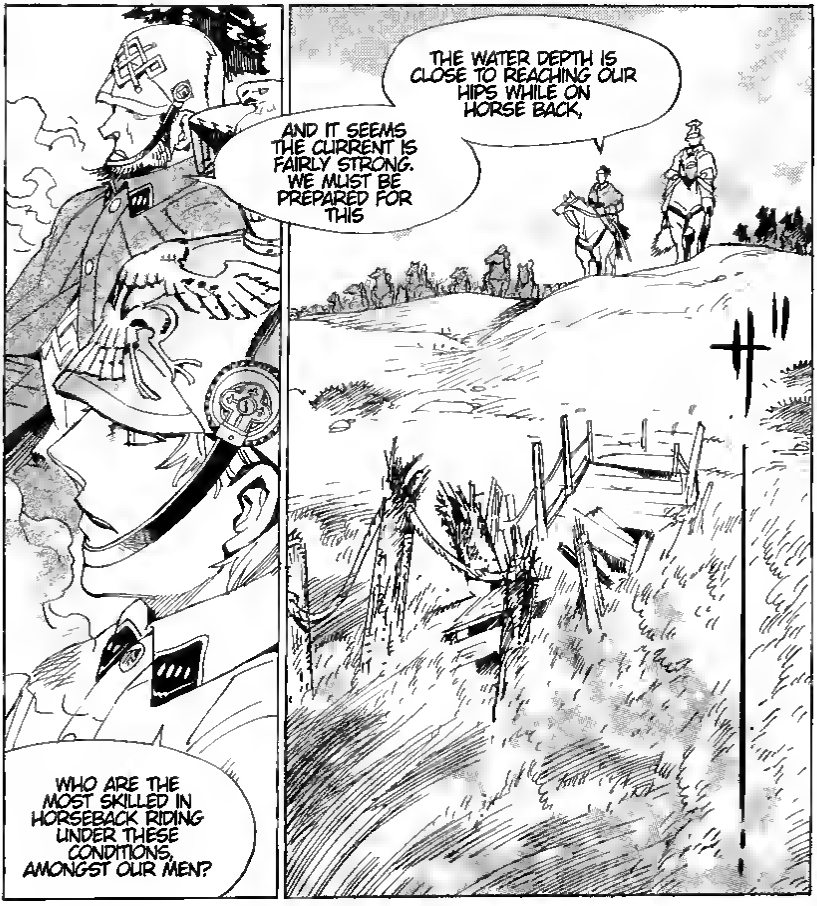
皇国の守護者

editor **JAC**
translator **DiamondEdge**
cleaner/type **M3OW**

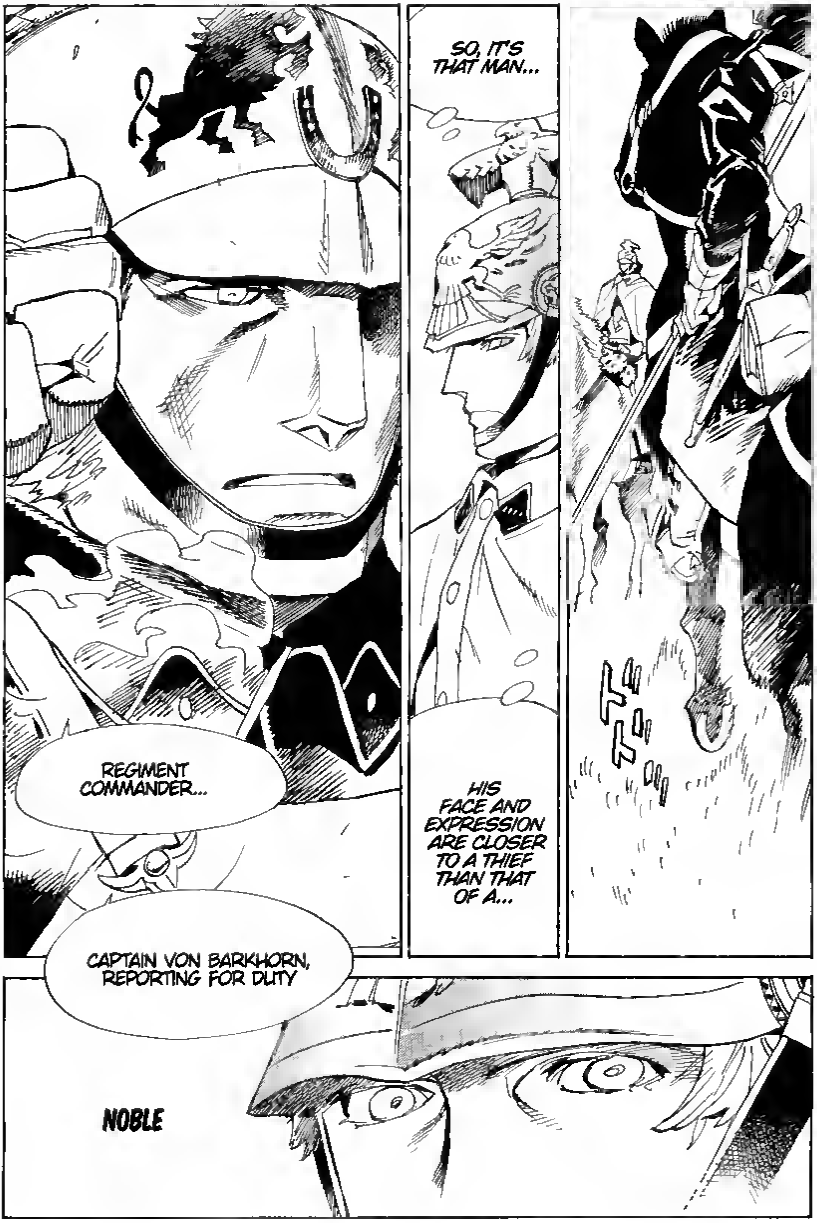
KEEP CHARGING!
第二章
光帯の下で 7
YOU'VE WON, HANS
CRUSH THEM!!

WE CAN DO THIS!
NOW THAT WE'VE RECEIVED RESOURCES FROM MAMURO, HE CAN GO AFTER OUR ENEMIES
KAMINAE
KAMINSKY'S SQUAD
NAE RIVER
MAMURO
MILITARY PROVISIONS
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD
IMPERIAL CAMP (ONAE)
ONAE
IMPERIAL NORTHERN GARRISONS MOBILIZATION COAST
AS YOU SAID, KAMINSKY IS NOT AN INCOMPETENT MAN,
BUT, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT OUR SUPPLIES
WE CAN CHARGE AHEAD WITH A FULLY RECOVERED AND PROPERLY FED CAVALRY
ONCE MORE, THOSE BARBARIANS WILL TASTE...
SHOCK AND TERROR

BUT,
THE ELITE TROOPS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN PERSONALLY BY CAPTAIN KAMINSKY,
THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT LOSSES CROSSING IT
YES,
THE CURRENTS AT KAMINAE ARE FAIRLY STRONG...

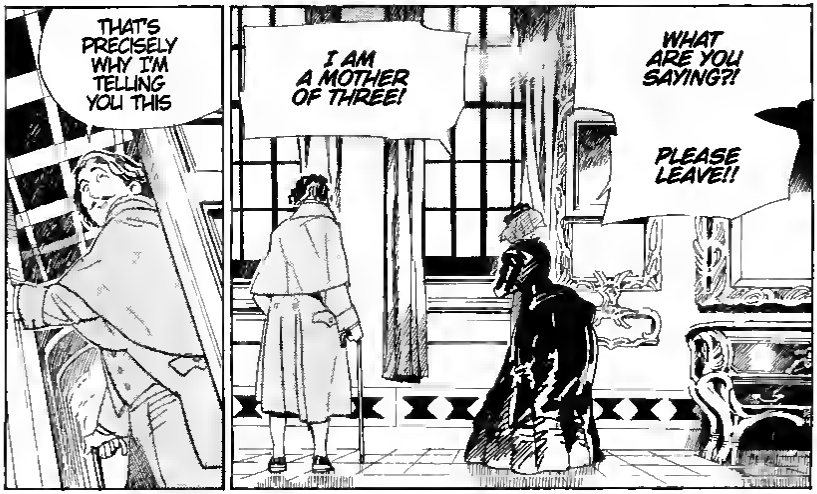

THE WATER DEPTH IS CLOSE TO REACHING OUR HIPS WHILE ON HORSE BACK,
AND IT SEEMS THE CURRENT IS FAIRLY STRONG. WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THIS
WHO ARE THE MOST SKILLED IN HORSEBACK RIDING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, AMONGST OUR MEN?

I BELIEVE IT'S CAPTAIN BARKHORN
CAPTAIN GOTTFRIED NOLTING VON BARKHORN,
HE'S A CONSERVATIVE AND DID NOT CHANGE HIS NAME EVEN AFTER THE CHANGE IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE WAS ENFORCED
HE'S ONE OF THE OLDEST ARISTOCRATS OF WHE WESTERN TERRITORIES
I'M SURE HE HAD A NOBLE TITLE AND KNIGHTHOOD
HMM,
HE HAS QUITE THE ROUGH FACE
YOU COULD SAY THAT...
WELL...
COMPARED TO YOURS...
CALL HIM.
ALMOST EVERYONE'S FACE WILL LOOK ROUGHER

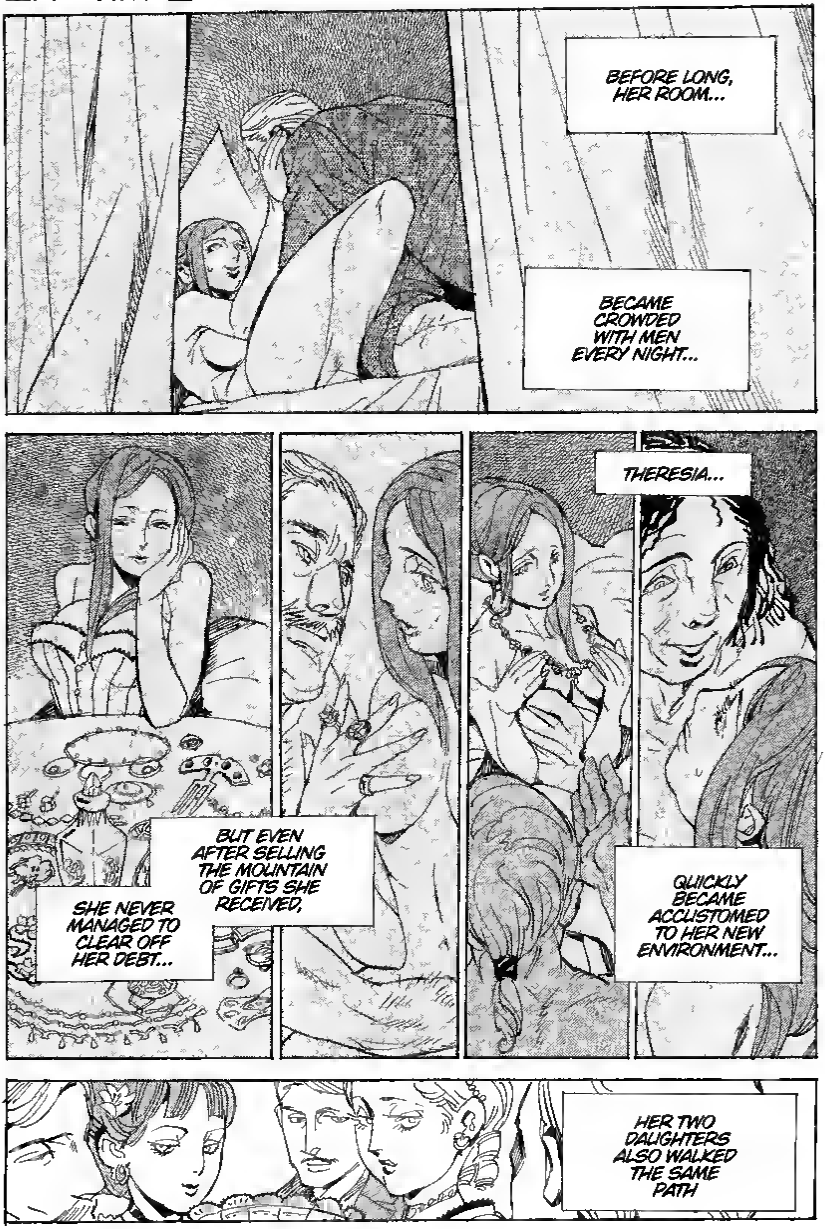

SO, IT'S THAT MAN...
HIS FACE AND EXPRESSION ARE CLOSER TO A THIEF THAN THAT OF A...
REGIMENT COMMANDER...
CAPTAIN VON BARKHORN, REPORTING FOR DUTY
NOBLE

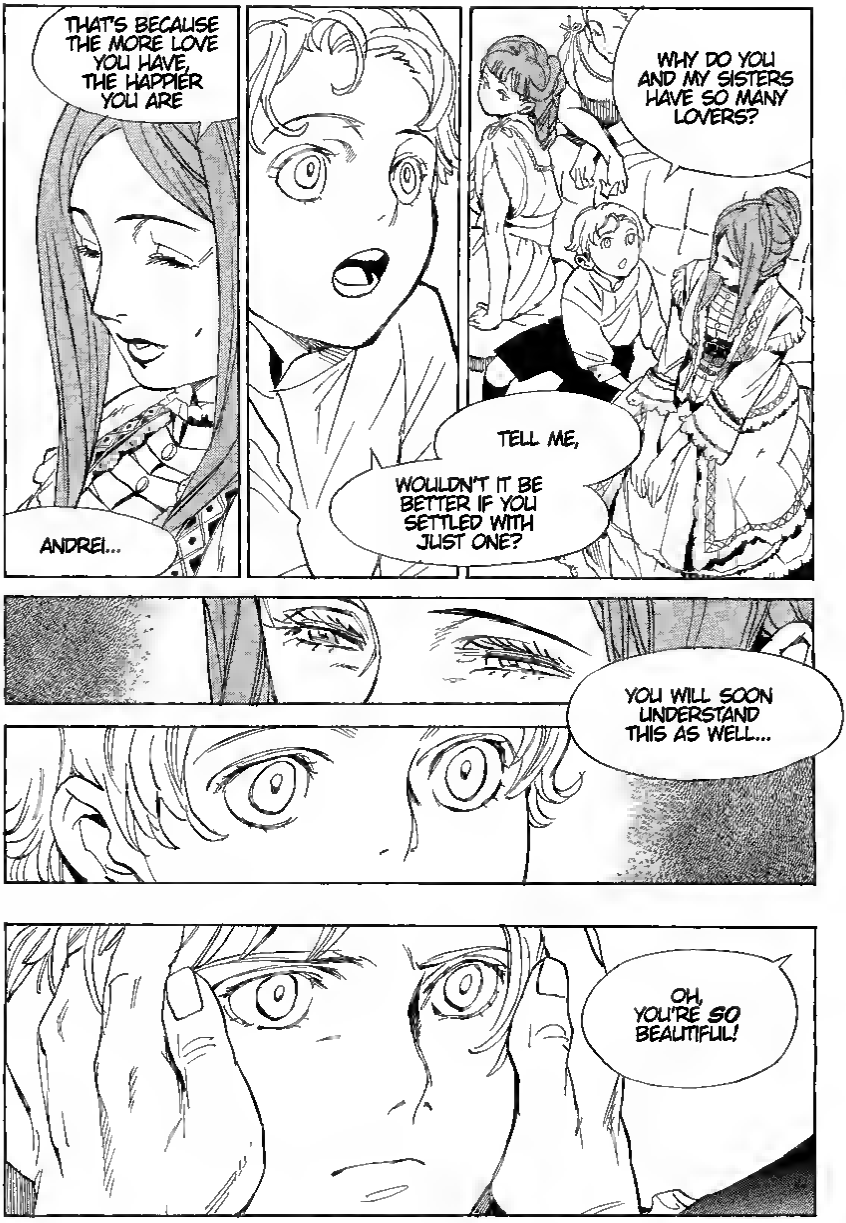
AND HIS PRONUNCIATION IS ELEGANT...
NOW THAT I HEAR HIM SPEAK, HE DOES HAVE A GENTLE VOICE...
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU
SO THE BOY WAS NOT RAISED BASED SIMPLY ON HIS FACE?
BARKHORN...
YOU MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE
THE KAMINSKY HOUSE HAS A LONG-STANDING HERITAGE AND HISTORY,
BUT, AROUND THE TIME ANDREI KAMINSKY WAS BORN, HIS GRANDFATHER AND FATHER WERE WASTING ALL THEIR FORTUNE AWAY...
THE SITUATION BECAME SO BAD THAT EVEN THEIR LAST REMAINING ASSET, THEIR RESIDENCE, COULD HAVE BEEN LOST

THE SIX-YEAR-OLD ANDREI INHERERITED THE HOUSE
BUT SINCE HE WAS TOO YOUNG,
EVERYTHING WAS ACTUALLY MANAGED BY HIS MOTHER, THERESIA
FATHER WASTED EVERYTHING IN SEARCH OF PLEASURE, AND EVEN THEN, HE KEPT LOOKING FOR MORE
ONE DAY IN A BROTHEL, HE TRIPPED ON THE STAIRS, BROKE HIS NECK, AND DIED


THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I'M TELLING YOU THIS
I AM A MOTHER OF THREE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
PLEASE LEAVE!!

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, LADY THERESIA,
ALL YOU HAVE LEFT NOW IS THIS IMPOVERISHED HOUSE
YOUR HUSBAND LEFT DEBTS AND THREE KIDS,
ARE YOU CONVINCED YOU CAN TAKE THIS BURDEN UPON YOU?
PLEASE, FACE YOUR REALITY...
THERESIA BEGAN DRESSING UP...
AND FREQUENTLY SHOWING UP IN INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE'S BANQUETS...
WHERE SHE BECAME A SIDE DISH FOR MEN
THE KAMINSKY HOUSE HAS NO FORTUNE LEFT...
YOU WERE ADMIRED AS THE GREATEST BEAUTY OF THE CAPITAL...
EVEN NOW, YOUR BEAUTY HAS NOT BEEN LOST...


BEFORE LONG, HER ROOM...
BECAME CROWDED WITH MEN EVERY NIGHT...
THERESIA...
BUT EVEN AFTER SELLING THE MOUNTAIN OF GIFTS SHE RECEIVED,
SHE NEVER MANAGED TO CLEAR OFF HER DEBT...
QUICKLY BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO HER NEW ENVIRONMENT...
HER TWO DAUGHTERS ALSO WALKED THE SAME PATH


THAT'S BECAUSE THE MORE LOVE YOU HAVE, THE HAPPIER YOU ARE
ANDREI...
TELL ME,
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU SETTLED WITH JUST ONE?
WHY DO YOU AND MY SISTERS HAVE SO MANY LOVERS?
YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND THIS AS WELL...
OH, YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!

IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT, THERESIA?
WOULD IT BE OKAY FOR ME TO TAKE HIM TO MY MANSION?
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE IS FOR THE KAMINSKY HOUSE,
I BRING GIFTS TO YOUR MOTHER EVERY DAY
I WILL NEVER LET YOU SUFFER ANY HARDSHIPS
IF YOU WISH,
LORD MARANZOFF

WELL NOW, YOU HAVE TO SMILE
TRY COMING HERE...
LORD MARANZOFF IS A TROUBLESOME MAN...
HE HAS A DISTINCT TASTE FOR MEN,
IF HE WEREN'T HIS HIGHNESS' YOUNGER BROTHER, HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE ALREADY FALLEN INTO DISGRACE AND EXILE
THAT NOBLE PROSTITUTE HAS NO SENSE OF SHAME
SINCE SHE SOLD OFF HER OWN SON, TURNING HIM INTO A MALE PROSTITUTE...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF!

ANDREI,
TODAY I THINK I'LL TAKE YOU HUNTING WITH ME
WE'LL RIDE HORSES, RELEASE DOGS ON OUR PREY, IT'LL BE VERY FUN!
MOTHER IS DESPERATE...
DOING ALL FOR THE FAMILY...
I JUST NEED TO SUCK IT UP FOR A WHILE., SO I'LL DO IT...
YES.
ONCE MORE, WE'LL BE...
AND THEN...
IF I DO THIS NOW, ONE DAY, MY MOTHER AND SISTERS WON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ANYMORE...

PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
LOR--
I BEG YOUR PARDON!
DISGUSTING PIG
I BEG YOUR PARDON...
YOU'RE NOT PRETTY NOR NOBLE...
YOU CAN ONLY REVEL IN YOUR DIRTY FETISHES AND IRRITABLE PERSONALITY DUE TO YOUR SOCIAL STANDING
YOU IDIOT!
IDIOT!!
YOU VULGAR, HIDEOUS IDIOT!!!

DOES THIS MAN FEEL NO SHAME?
IF YOU HAVE MONEY AND POWER, HOW CAN YOU LIVE IN THIS DESPICABLE WAY?
I'M... CHOC--
UGH!
ズキ
IF YOU HAVE MONEY AND POWER...
LORD MARANZOFF!
HOW FAIRED YOUR HUNT?

WE WERE JUST SIGHTSEEING,
YOU'VE GOTTEN BIG, YULIA!
MY HORSE IS PRETTY, ISN'T HE?
LOOK! ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MY WHITE HORSE
BUT SOMEBODY CAPTURED A WOLF,
FIGHT!
YOU ARE A WOLF!
ｶﾞｷﾝ
FIGHT!!

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ハァハァ
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT SHOT
IT'S REGRETABBLE, PRINCESS,
BUT HE WON'T EVER STAND UP AGAIN
YOU CAN'T RUN ANYMORE?
ITS BONES ARE BROKEN

PLEASE DISPOSE OF HIM
YURIA!
DON'T YOU PITY IT? DON'T YOU LOVE THIS HORSE?
IF AN ANIMAL THAT'S MADE TO RUN...
CANNOT STAND ANYMORE, THEN IT WON'T WANT TO LIVE ON IN SUCH A UNSLIGHTLY STATE
KLAUS...
PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDENESS

THIS GIRL...
SHE DIDN'T CRY UNTIL THE END...
THAT KID? YULIA IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE RULER OF THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORIES
SHE'S QUITE SAVAGE, AND DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WILL IMPROVE,
WELL, I'M GLAD SHE IS JUST A LITTLE GIRL...

OH, YOU'RE SO GENTLE, ANDREI,
EVERYONE WHO LOVES SOMETHING IS AFRAID OF LOSING IT
DID SHE DO SOMETHING THAT SCARED YOU TOO, LORD MARANZOFF?
ANDREI. THIS COUNTRY, ALL IT'S LANDS FROM EAST TO WEST, IT'S ANCIENT TREASURES AND IT'S PEOPLE,
ALL BELONG TO HIM
YOU AND ME TOO
MY GREAT BROTHER,
IS THE ONLY PERSON WITH ENOUGH POWER TO NOT FEAR ANYTHING
THE ONLY ONE IN THIS WORLD IS,
HIS HIGHNESS

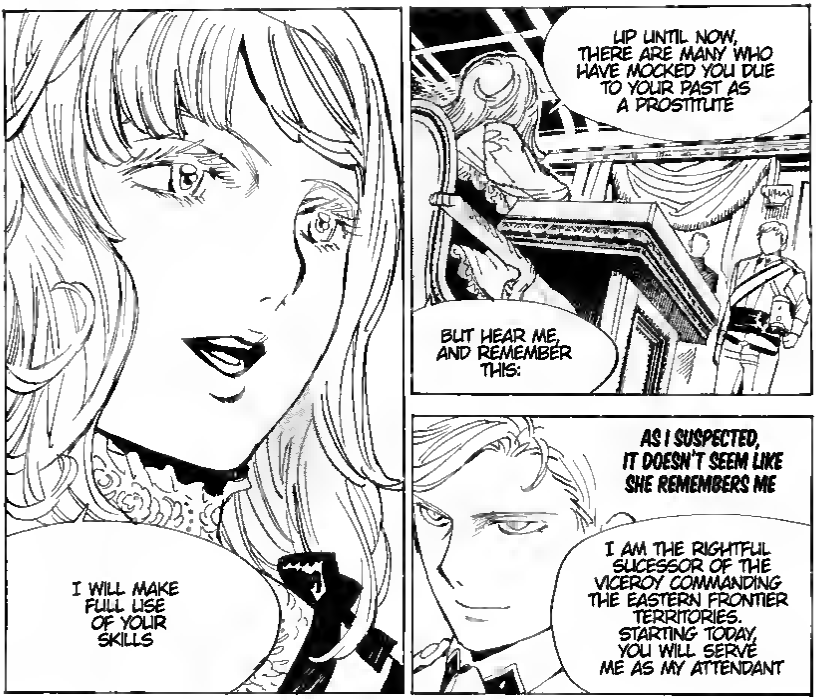
YOUR MOTHER, TOO...
3 YEARS LATER,
MARANZOFF DIED SUDDENLY IN HIS BED
THAT YULIA, AS WELL...
IS THE TESTAMENT REAL?
THE HANDWRITING DOES LOOK LIKE HIS
WILL THAT PROSTITUTE FINALLY BE ABLE TO RESTORE HIS WANING FAMILY TO GLORY?
HE HAS REALLY THICK SKIN...
HE LEFT...
A VAST INHERITANCE FOR ANDREI ONCE HE BECAME 16 YEARS OLD
HIS HEART SIMPLY COULDN'T ENDURE HIS LIFESTYLE AND SEXUAL INDULGENCE...

I HAVE RETURNED HOME,
MOTHER...
COME NOW,
WE HAVE AN EMPTY ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR
IF YOU ARE HERE BY YOURSELF,
WE HAVE PLENTY OF SUITABLE GIRLS FOR YOU
I HAVE MONEY, SO,
BEFORE LONG, I CAN DEAL WITH ALL YOUR PROBLEMS...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SHOW UP AFTER THREE YEARS,
AND GIVE US ORDERS?!
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS,
I HAVE RECEIVED IT FROM HIS GRACE'S LATE YOUNGER BROTHER
THIS IS A CERTIFICATE FOR LANDS, MONEY AND GOODS
DID YOU COME HERE TO SELL YOUR BODY?!
YOU... DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE,
MOTHER... SISTERS...
AND ALSO,
TOGETHER,
WE CAN ALL LIVE PEACEFULLY
REPULSIVE!!

I DO NOT WANT TO TOUCH MONEY...
THAT YOU WIPED YOUR ANUS WITH!
ANDREI...
LEFT HALF OF HIS INHERITANCE FROM MARANZOFF AS PROPERTY FOR HIS FAMILY,
AND LEFT THE HOUSE ONLY WITH ONLY THE TITLE OF BARON...
ABANDONING HIS FAMILY

ANDREI KAMINSKY USED HIS PAST AS A MALE PROSTITUE OF THE KING'S YOUNGER BROTHER TO ADVANCE IN HIS CAREER...
IN ORDER TO BECOME MORE INFLUENTIAL, HE ENLISTED IN THE MILITARY,
AND ADVANCED STEADILY TO BECOME A COMISSIONED OFFICER...
HIS NATURAL AFFINITY TO BECOME A GREAT SOLDIER...
COULD NOT BE QUESTIONED
TWO YEARS LATER.
CAPTAIN ANDREI BARANOVICH DE LUXER KAMINSKI

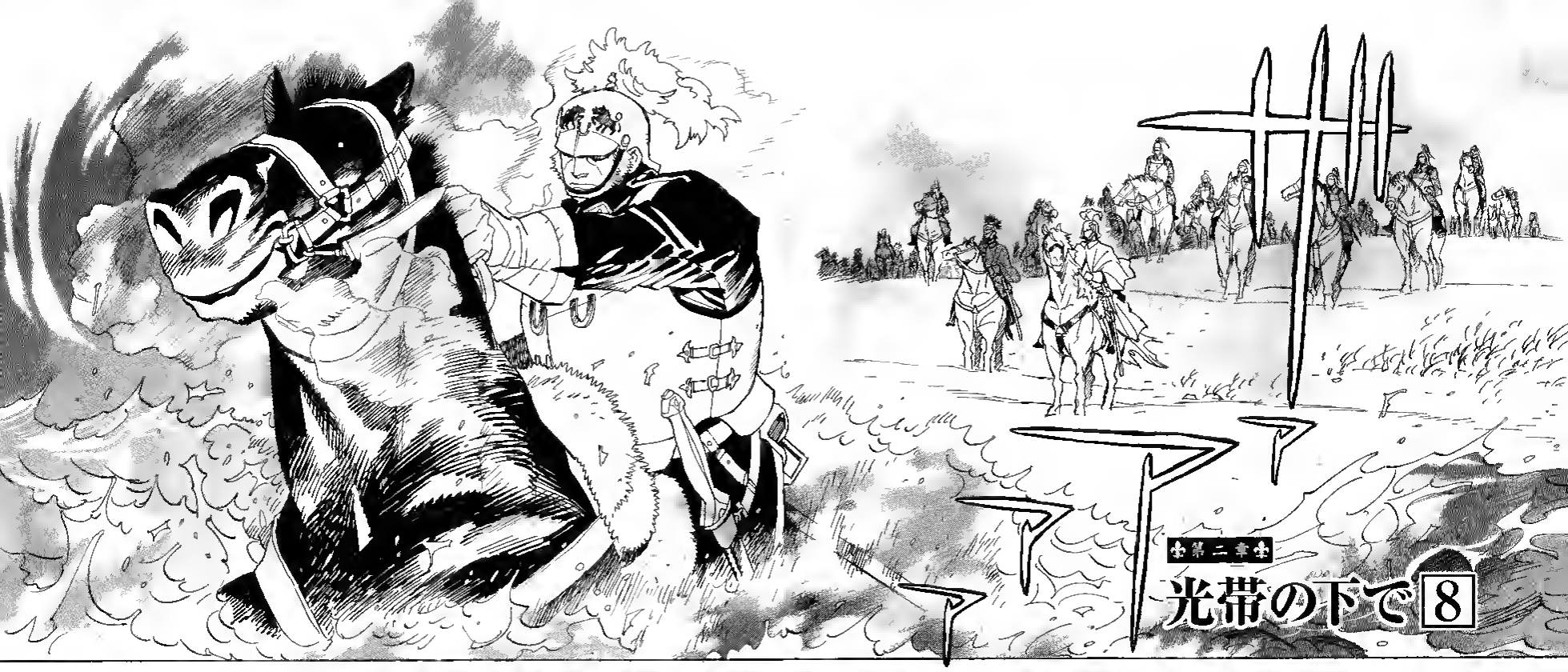

I WILL MAKE FULL USE OF YOUR SKILLS
UP UNTIL NOW, THERE ARE MANY WHO HAVE MOCKED YOU DUE TO YOUR PAST AS A PROSTITUTE
BUT HEAR ME, AND REMEMBER THIS:
AS I SUSPECTED, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE REMEMBERS ME
I AM THE RIGHTFUL SUCESSOR OF THE VICEROY COMMANDING THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORIES. STARTING TODAY, YOU WILL SERVE ME AS MY ATTENDANT

"Andrei... Everything in this country belongs to His Majesty"

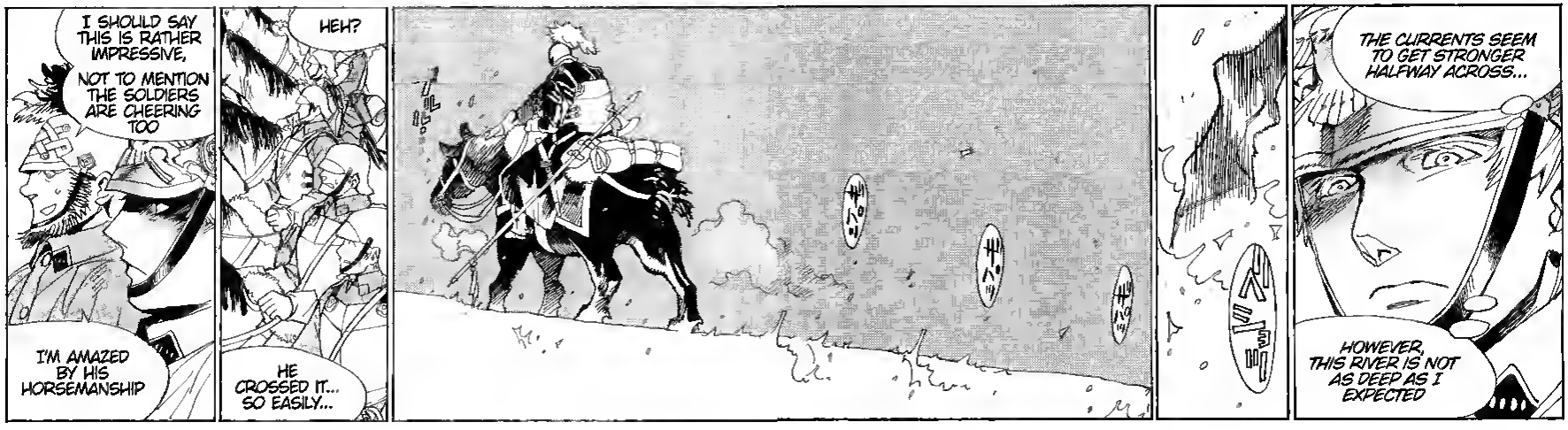
FIND OUT IF WE CAN CRAWL OUT OF THE MUD, AND IF WE CAN CROSS OVER THESE CURRENTS
GO AHEAD OF US...
I WONDER IF THIS WIL BE EASY.

MASTERSCA.nz

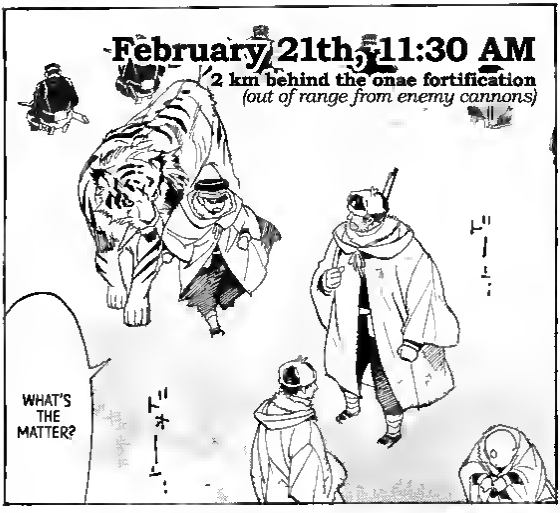
UNDERSTOOD, COMMANDER
I WILL CROSS THE RIVER
HEART
WATER SURFACE
WE WOULD QUICKLY FREEZE TO DEATH TRYING TO CROSS ON FOOT, BUT ON HORSEBACK, I'M SURE THIS WILL WORK
STILL, IT'S BETTER TO CONFIRM THIS
WHAT A CONFIDENT REPLY,
HE DIDN'T SHOW ANY HESITATION RIGHT IN FRONT OF THOSE CURRENTS



第二章 光帯の下で 8


I SHOULD SAY THIS IS RATHER IMPRESSIVE,
NOT TO MENTION THE SOLDIERS ARE CHEERING TOO
I'M AMAZED BY HIS HORSEMANSHIP
HEH?
HE CROSSED IT... SO EASILY...
THE CURRENTS SEEM TO GET STRONGER HALFWAY ACROSS...
HOWEVER, THIS RIVER IS NOT AS DEEP AS I EXPECTED

START CROSSING THE RIVER
FIRST SQUADRON, FORWARD!


February 21th, 11:30 AM
2 km behind the onae fortification
(out of range from enemy cannons)
ドーン
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ドォーン

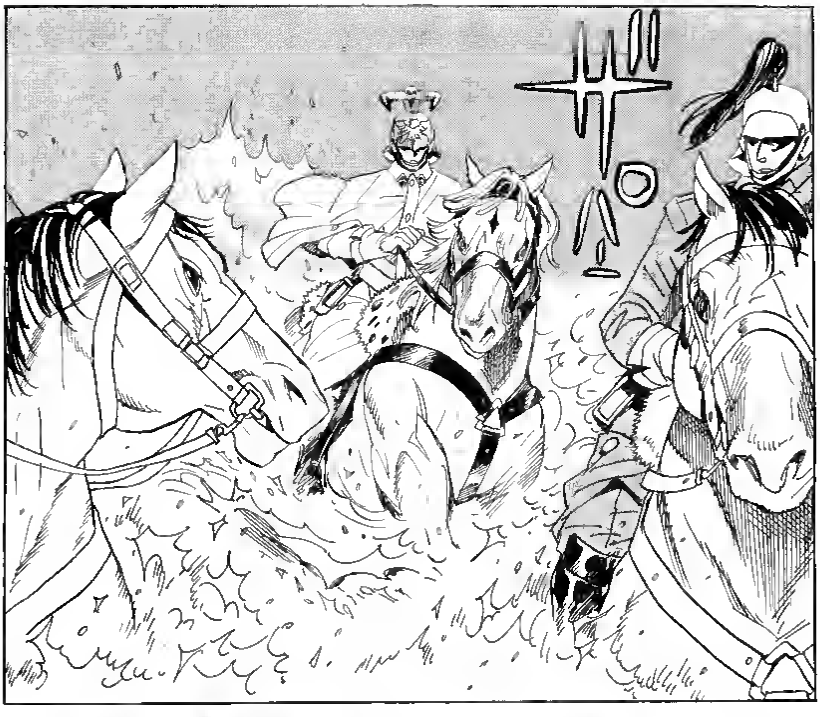
HE HAS SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU

I AM CERTAIN I HAVE ORDERED YOU TO REST

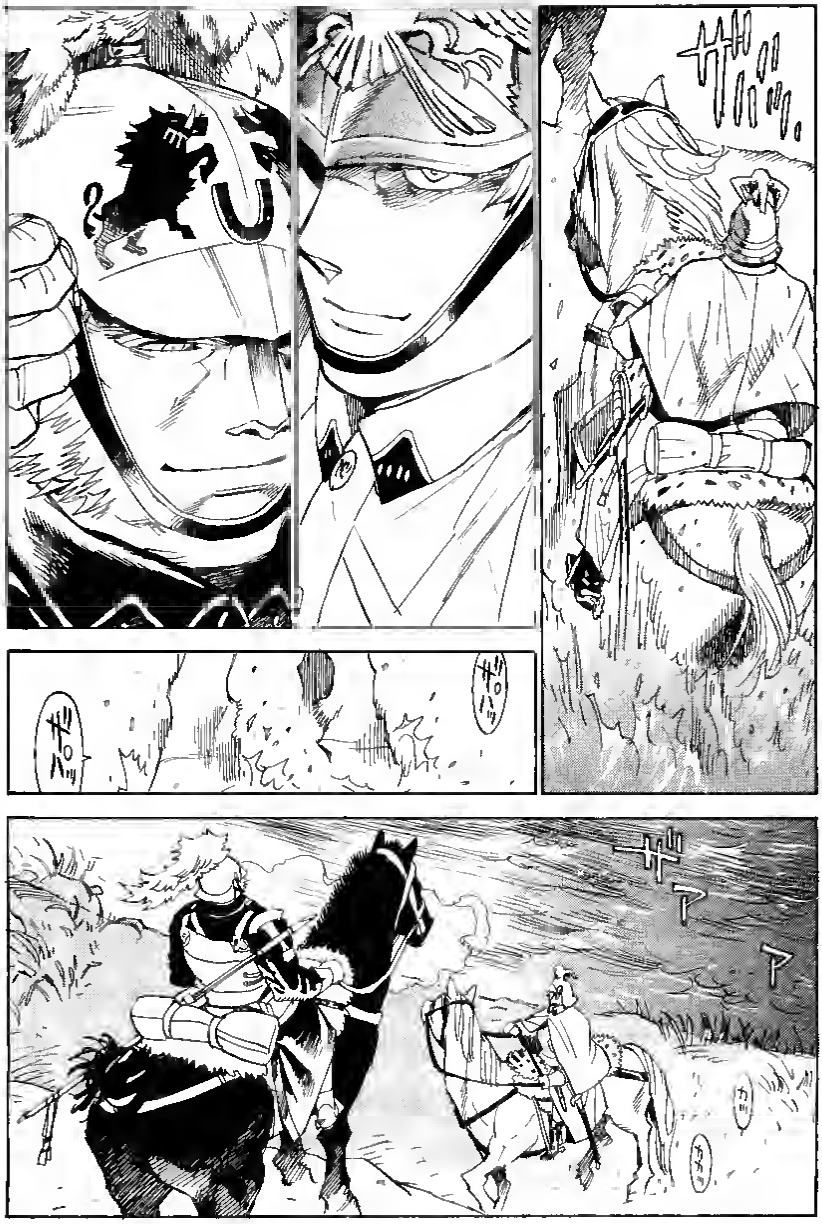
THE ENEMY...
IS CROSSING THE KAMINAE RIVER...
ONE BATALLION... THEIR CAVALRY!

ヒヒィン
HEY, CALM DOWN!
THEY HATE THIS COLD WATER,
HOLD YOUR HORSES!
ヒヒヒィーン
ガ!!
HUAAAHH!
UWAAHHHH!!

THIS IS BAD. SEEING THAT SCENE
BOTH THE SOLDIERS AND THE HORSES WILL GET AFRAID OF THE WATER
THEY'VE ALSO SEEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO CROSS THIS
IT WOULD BE A DISGRACE FOR OUR CAVALRY TO BE DEFEATED NOT BY ENEMY SOLDIERS IN BATTLE, BUT BY MERE WATER
TCH.



——……
THIS COLD WATER...
IS LIKE A NEEDLE STABBING MY BODY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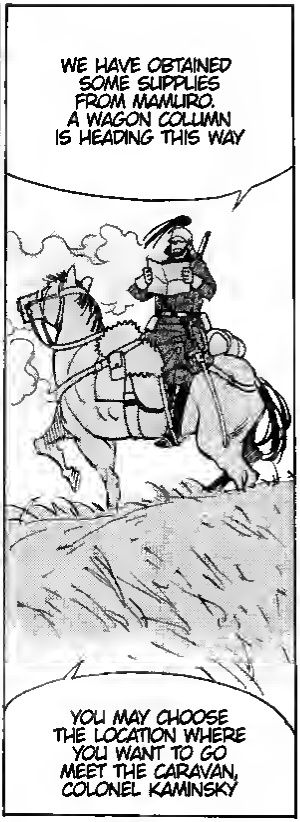
NOW THAT THE COMMANDER HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE, THE OTHERS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW HIM
IT'S NOT JUST A ROWDY FACE THAT MAKES ONE A MAN

UWAAHHHH!!
AHHHH!
AAH!
ドドドドー
ヒヒヒヒン
ヒヒヒヒン

A FEW MINUTES PAST NOON, THE EASTERN FRONTIER TERRITORIES HEAVY CAVALRY'S 3RD REGIMENT, 1ST BATALLION SUCESSFULY CROSSED THE RIVER
WHAT WERE OUR LOSSES?
67 MEN DIED
MESSAGE!
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY, MAJOR GENERAL SCHWERIN!
MAKE SURE YOU GET COMPLETELY DRY TO AVOID FROSTBITE
EVERYONE AVAILABLE SHOULD GATHER MORE FIREWOOD!
THAT'S A CONSIDERABLE LOSS

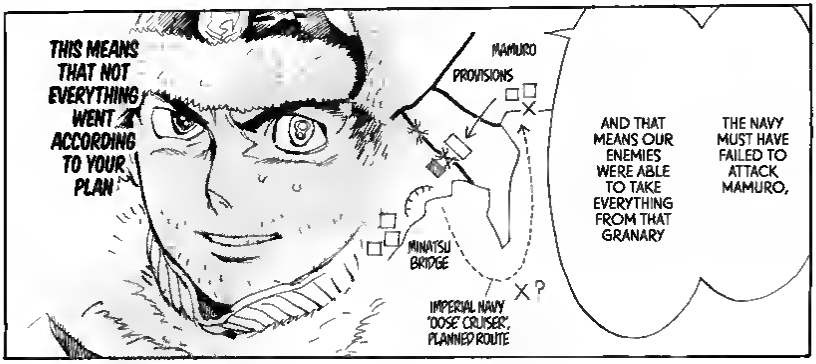
WE HAVE EVERYTHING SET UP
WE WILL TRAMPLE THOSE BEAST TAMERS!

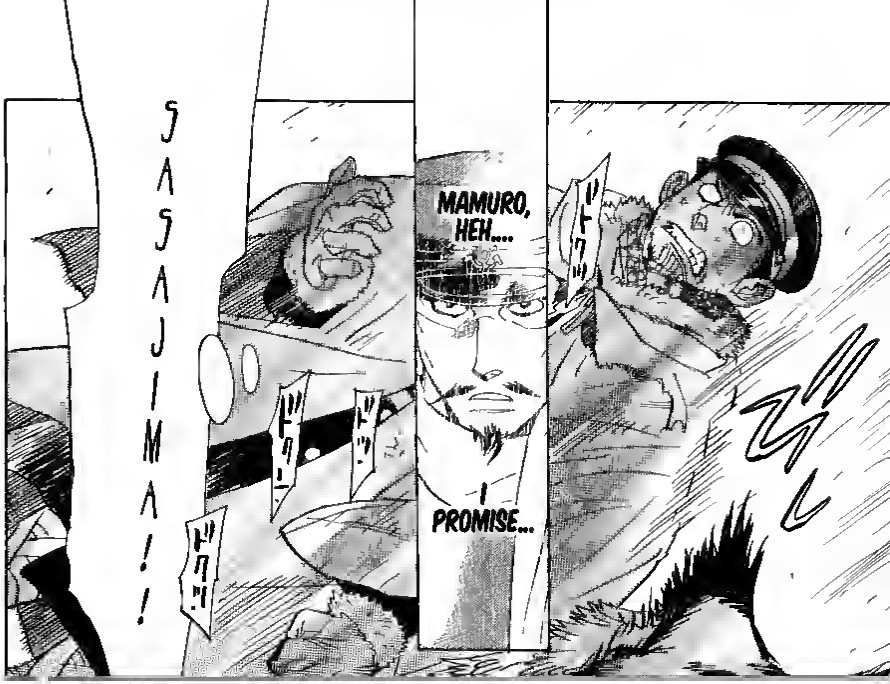

WE HAVE OBTAINED SOME SUPPLIES FROM MAMLIRO. A WAGON COLUMN IS HEADING THIS WAY
YOU MAY CHOOSE THE LOCATION WHERE YOU WANT TO GO MEET THE CARAVAN, COLONEL KAMINSKY

ミョーラ!!
HAVE YOU ALL HEARD THIS?

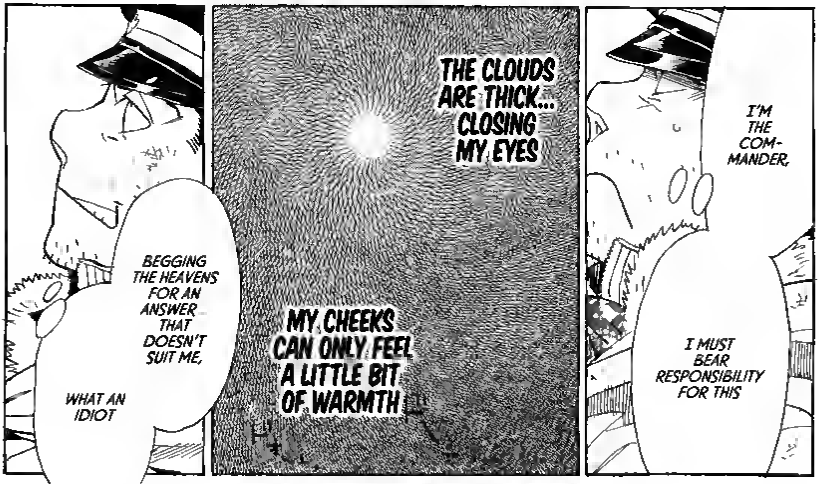
I'M VERY SORRY, COMMANDER... I DECIDED TO TAKE A LOOK OF MY OWN WILL
I WAS VERY WORRIED
WHAT AM I DOING?
DO YOU KNOW IF THEY HAVE ENOUGH PROVISIONS?
THAT'S A WAGON LINE...
THOSE ARE PROVISIONS FOR THEIR CAVALRY!
ALL I COULD DETECT IS...
NORTH
ROYAL ARMY CAVALRY BATTALION
ROYAL ARMY VANGUARD MAIN FORCES
THAT THERE'S ANOTHER GROUP ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER

"THEY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO DEVOTE THE TIME NEEDED FOR A DETOUR VIA KAMINAE", THEY SAID
OUR HOPE IS GONE... CRUMBLED


THIS MEANS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN
MAMURO
PROVISIONS
MINATSU BRIDGE
IMPERIAL NAVY 'OOSE' CRUISER, PLANNED ROUTE
AND THAT MEANS OUR ENEMIES WERE ABLE TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM THAT GRANARY
THE NAVY MUST HAVE FAILED TO ATTACK MAMURO,


SASAJIMA!!
MAMURO, HEH....
I PROMISE...

SOMETIMES,
REALITY IS TERRIFYING

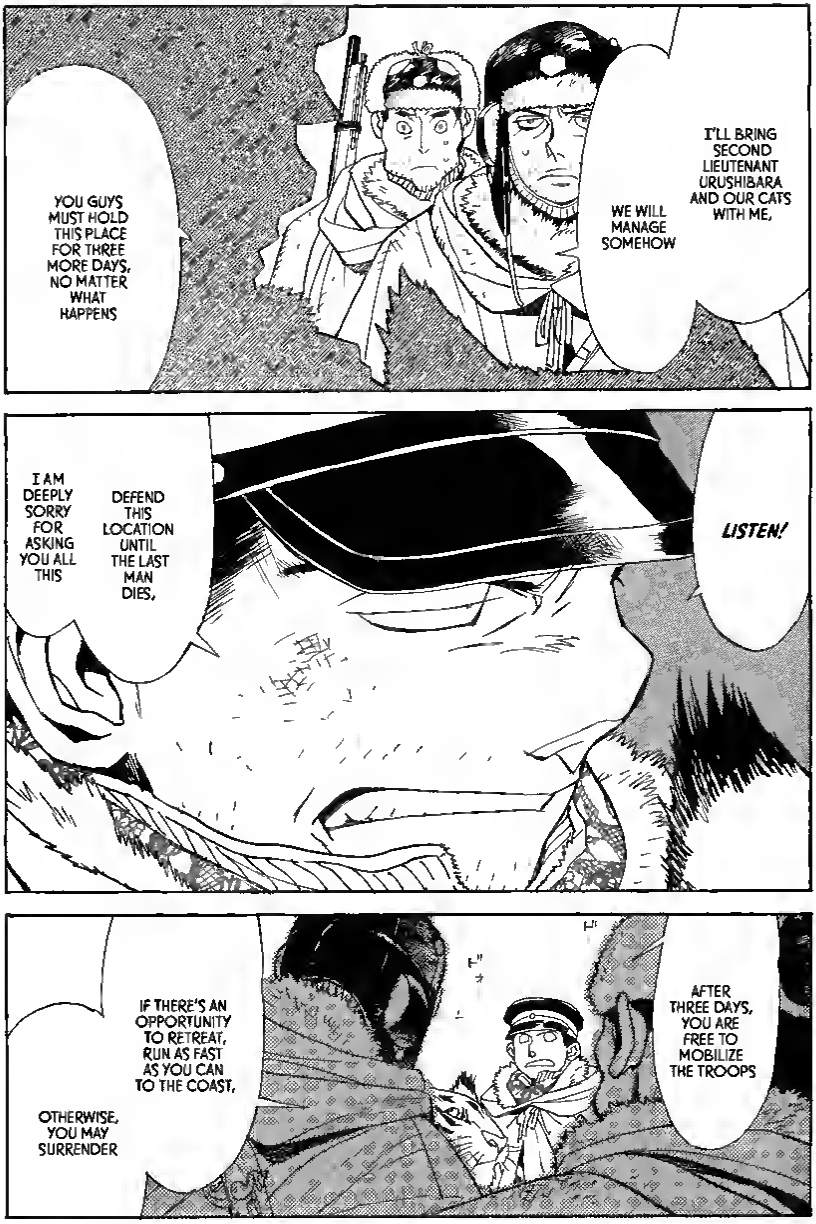

I'M THE COM-MANDER,
I MUST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS
THE CLOUDS ARE THICK... CLOSING MY EYES
MY CHEEKS CAN ONLY FEEL A LITTLE BIT OF WARMTH
BEGGING THE HEAVENS FOR AN ANSWER THAT DOESN'T SUIT ME,
WHAT AN IDIOT

MY STRENGTH IS DIMINISHING AND I WONDER IF THEY ARE EXHAUSTED TOO...
THIS IS LIKELY THE REASON
WERE YOU ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE MOBILIZATION SUPPORT SQUAD HEADQUARTERS?
IT'S DIFFICULT, I'VE TRIED CONTACTING THEM, BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY
CALL HYODO AND SENOO
FORGET THIS, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE WITH THIS DESIRE TO MURDER SASAJIMA
SINCE I CANNOT CONTACT THEM, I'LL KEEP ACTING BASED ON THE INFORMATION I HAVE NOW
I SEE

EAT THEM NOW,
WHILE THERE ISN'T MAJOR MOVIMENT ON THE BATTLEFIELD
MESSAGE TO SECOND LIEUTENANT NYODO
トボ
トボ
NERE ARE SOME ONIGIRI!
THE COM-MANDER IS CALLING YOU
SECOND LIEUT-ENANT SENOO!
SECOND LIEUTENANT HYODO,
YOU ARE TO TAKE COMMAND OF OUR MAIN FORCES

I'LL LEAD THE RESERVE CORPS WESTWARD
AND INTERCEPT THE ENEMY TROOPS THAT HAVE CROSSED KAMINAE
COM-MANDER!

WE ARE TOO FAR FROM THE COAST TO BE RESCUED
ISN'T THAT ONE OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE MILITARY?
COMMANDERS SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE MAIN FORCES, AND ARE ABLE TO USE THEM TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.
PLEASE SEND ME TO DEAL WITH THEM
WE CANNOT ESCAPE THIS TIME
Then why are you even going there?


I'LL BRING SECOND LIEUTENANT URUSHIBARA AND OUR CATS WITH ME,
WE WILL MANAGE SOMEHOW
YOU GUYS MUST HOLD THIS PLACE FOR THREE MORE DAYS, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS
LISTEN!
DEFEND THIS LOCATION UNTIL THE LAST MAN DIES,
I AM DEEPLY SORRY FOR ASKING YOU ALL THIS
AFTER THREE DAYS, YOU ARE FREE TO MOBILIZE THE TROOPS
IF THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETREAT, RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN TO THE COAST,
OTHERWISE, YOU MAY SURRENDER

THESE ORDERS ARE WRITTEN DOWN, I HAVE A COPY FOR EACH OF YOU
AND ANOTHER COPY TO BE DELIVERED AT THE MOBILIZATION SUPPORT SQUAD HEADQUARTERS
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
THREE DAYS
AFTER THAT, GIVE TOTAL PRIORITY TO THE LIVES OF OUR SOLDIERS
DO NOT CONSIDER TRYING TO COME TO MY LOCATION, OR SEARCH FOR ME
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM DOING THAT

!!!
WHATEVER.
WELL THEN,
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
PERHAPS THAT LAST ONE WAS JUST ME BEING CONCEITED?
KAMINAE
HEAVY CAVALRY BATALLION A LITTLE MORE THAN 600 SOLDIERS (COLONEL KAMINSKY)
NAE RIVER
WE HAVE ONE CAVALRY BATALLION MOVING FROM KAMINAE
ONAE
VANGUARD MAIN FORCES, A LITTLE LESS THAN 8000 SOLDIERS (MAJOR GENERAL SCHWERIN)
AND OUR MAIN FORCES ARE IN FRONT OF ONAE
MINATSU BEACH

TO AVOID A PINCER ATTACK, THEY MUST SPLIT THEIR TROOPS
チチチ
チュン
AND ATTEMPT TO INTERCEPT OUR CAVALRY
ACCODING TO OUR INTEL, THE BARBARIANS AT ONAE HAVE MANAGED TO SCRAPE TOGETHER AROUND 600 SOLDIERS
チチッ
チュン
IT'S PITIFUL THAT THEY'LL HAVE TO SPLIT SUCH VALUABLE TROOPS EVEN THINNER

OUR FORCES FACING KAMINAE WERE STRENGTHENED,
AND KAMINSKY IS MOVING FROM KAMINAE
MOREOVER, OUR VANGUARD WAS REINFORCED BY TWO JAEGER BATALLIONS AND RECEIVED EXTRA PROVISIONS FROM MAMURO
AND THEY RECEIVED ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF OPERATION
KAMINAE
HIGHWAY
SIDEROAD
ONAE
MINATSU
NOTHERN GARRISON MAIN FORSES
NORTH MINATSU BEACH. NORTHERN GARRISION MOBILIZATION COAST
ONCE ONAE FALLS, WE WILL LIKELY HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CAPTURE THEIR FOCES GATHERED AT THE COAST

IT'S REGRETTABLE,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM FACE-TO-FACE...
PRINCESS?
AND WE WILL ALSO CRUSH THOSE BEAST TAMERS...
WITHOUT ANY EFFORT
THIS IS A FITTING END

皇国の守護者

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第二章
光帯の下で9
THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT...
YOU MIGHT EVEN FACE MORE DANGER YOURSELF
WELL THEN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU
THERE ARE THREE SOLDIERS THAT TURNED 18 YEARS OLD VERY RECENTLY
WHO'S OUR YOUNGEST SOLDIER?
CALL THEM AT ONCE

WHICH ONE OF YOU WERE BORN FIRST?
ME, SIR!
SABER-TOOTH SOLDIER 2ND CLASS, KINJI ICHIHARA REPORTING
WELL THEN, 2ND CLASS ICHIHARA, AND THE OTHER TWO
I WANT YOU TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO THE MOBILIZATION SUPPORT TROOPS MAIN HEADQUARTERS
NO MATTER WHAT,
UND-ER-STO-OD?
YES, SIR!
I WANT YOU TO DELIVER THIS DIRECTLY TO COMMANDER SASAJIMA OF THE NAVY
TELL HIM I SEND MY REGARDS
YES, SIR!
ONCE YOU COMPLETE YOUR MISSION

YES!
I AM TO RETURN IMMEDIATELLY TO MY--
WRONG!
YOU IDIOT,
YOU ARE TO FOLLOW COMMANDER SASAJIMA'S INSTRUCTIONS
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM RETURNING. REMEMBER THIS, AND ALSO MEMORIZE WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THAT REPORT
UNDER-STOOD? THERE'S NO NEED TO RETURN
ALL RIGHT, SOLDIERS! BEGIN THE OPERATION AT ONCE!
DOUBLE TIME! MOVE IT!! FASTER!!!

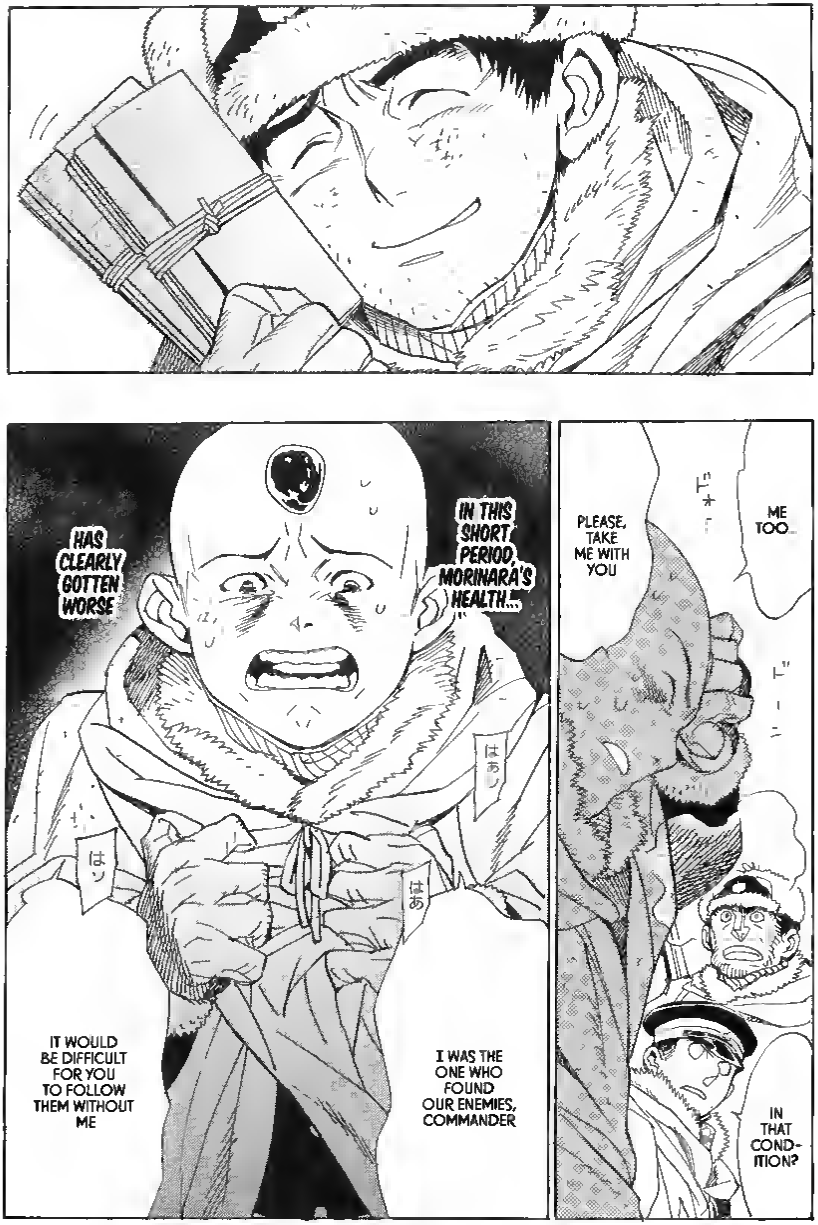
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS IMMED-IATELY!

I MANAGED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF ONLY THREE YOUNG SOLDIERS. WHILE ONE COULD CERTAINLY CALL THAT "HYPOCRISY"...
I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO NOT DO IT
AS COMMANDER OF THIS BATALLION...
I SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THIS...

THOSE GUYS WERE QUITE SHY
YES, UNTIL THE PARTING
2ND LIEUTENANT URUSHIBARA, WHAT'S THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE RESERVE CORPS?
COUNTING THOSE WITH MINOR INJURIES, WE HAVE 178 MEN IN FIGHTING CONDITION, COMMANDER
CAN WE SURVIVE THIS?
YOU, AND ME...
FACING AROUND 600 SOLDIERS OF THE ENEMY CAVALRY
WE HAVE ENOUGH MUNITIONS FOR THREE ENGAGEMENTS AT BEST
THAT'S GOOD

GO ON
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE ONCE AGAIN HOW A 'REGULAR' BATTLE IS FOUGHT?
PREPARE ENOUGH RESOURCES FOR THREE DAYS
ONCE THAT'S DONE, WE WILL DEPART AT ONCE
YES!

HEY, THOSE LETTERS YOU WROTE, GIVE THEM TO ME
IF YOU DIE, I'LL DELIVER THEM
"THANK YOU" MY ASS, IDIOT
THANK YOU I'M COUNTING ON YOU
IT'S AN EXCH-ANGE, IF WE DON'T MAKE IT... WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU
IN RETURN, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR LETTERS
2ND LIEUTENANT URUSHI-BARA...
DON'T THINK ABOUT DYING
PLEASE...


ME TOO...
PLEASE, TAKE ME WITH YOU
IN THAT CONDITION?
IN THIS SHORT PERIOD, MORINARA'S HEALTH...
HAS CLEARLY GOTTEN WORSE
I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND OUR ENEMIES, COMMANDER
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO FOLLOW THEM WITHOUT ME

My doujutsu...
If you're going east to intercept them,
then you absolutely need me...
HOWEVER...
PREPARE A SLED TO TRANSPORT 2ND CLASS MORIHARA
YES, SIR
AND ALSO...
THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY PREPARED THEIR CATS SHOULD GATHER WITH THE RESERVE CORPS
GO AFTER EVERY-ONE,
YES?
SER-GEANT MAJOR

THAT MEANS I WILL HAVE TO DO MY VERY BEST TO LEAD THEM, DOESN'T IT?
UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE RESERVE CORPS ARE JUST SOLDIERS DEFEATED IN OUR OTHER BATTLES THAT WERE FORCED INTO IT... I CAN'T HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THEM...

What do I have to do in this situation?

I have to face reality!

Well then... I've finally been cornered

IF WE FAIL TO DO SO, THEN OUR MAIN FORCES ALSO WON'T MAKE IT
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO NOT HOLD THEM OFF ANY LONGER
AH.
.....
ISN'T THAT SIMPLE?
IF WE IGNORE HOW ABSURDLY DANGEROUS THIS SITUATION IS...
HA! HA! HA!
COM-MANDER?
HAHA!
HA! HA! HA!

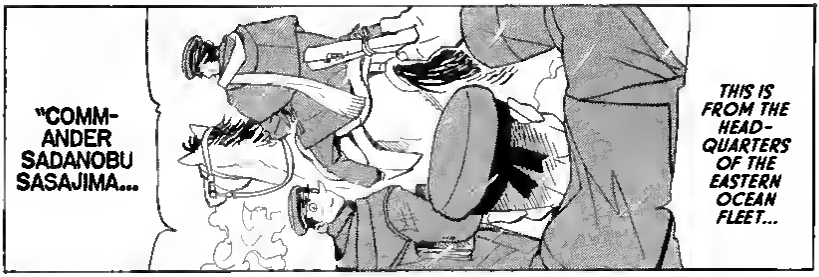
IS THIS WHAT PEOPLE FEEL BEFORE SUICIDE?
THIS STRANGE FEELING OF EXALTATION...

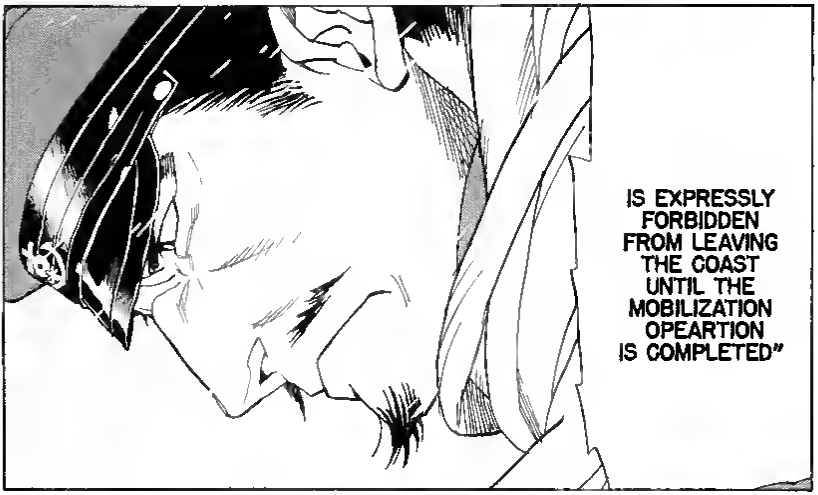
COM-MANDER! I BRING GOOD NEWS!
Minatsu beach
Northern garrisons mobilization coast
59km distant from onae

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO OUT ALONE JUST FOR A MESSAGE!!
WAIT, COM-MANDER! DO YOU REALLY PLAN ON DOING THAT?!

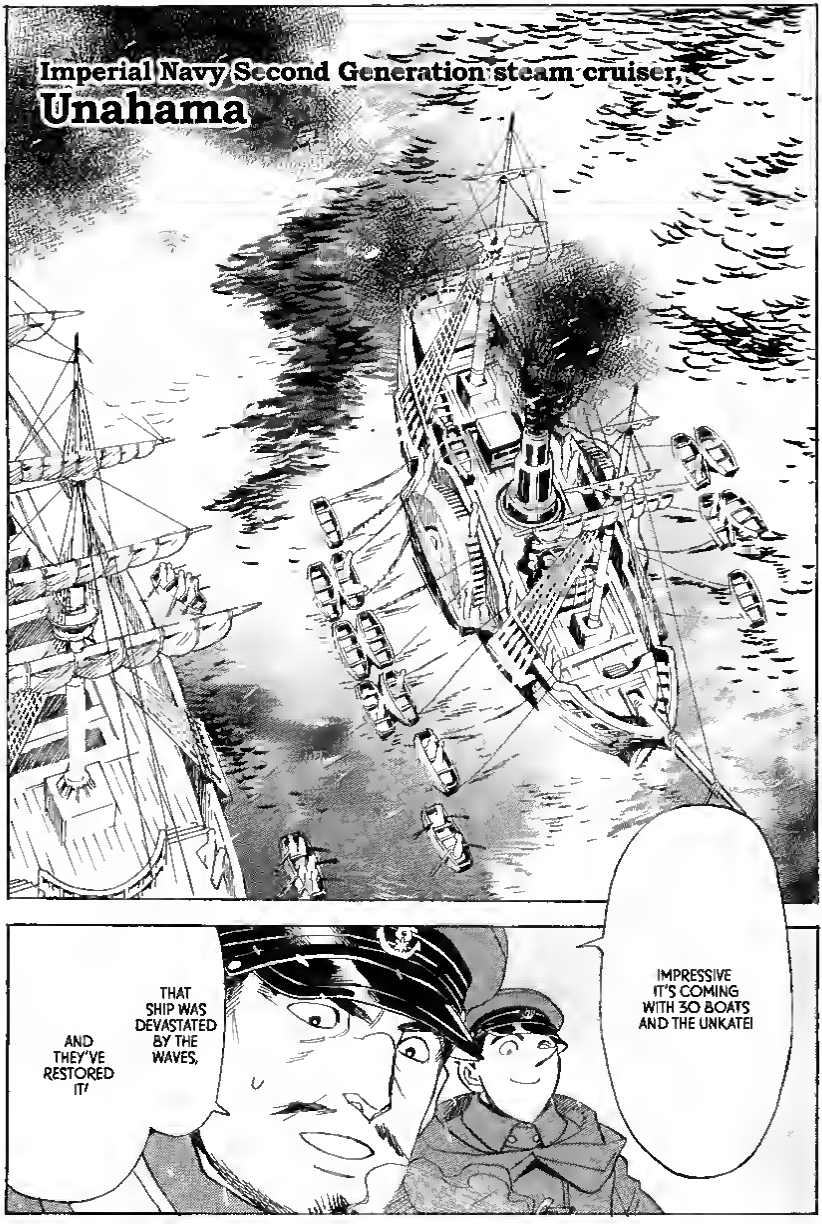
THE UNAHAMA SHOULD BE COMING HE--

AT LEAST RIDE A PTERO-SAUR
DANGEROUS FOR WHO? RIGHT NOW, OUR ENEMIES ARE CLOSING IN AND WE HAVE NO WAY TO SEND OR RECEIVE MESSAGES
BOTH RIDERS AND BEASTS ARE USELESS NOW
THOSE CANNOT FLY ANYMORE,
I HAVE TO MEET CAPTAIN SHINJO'S BATALLION AND INFORM HIM OF THE CURRENT SITUATION
AND SINCE WE CAN'T USE DOUJUTSU EITHER, THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION
COM-MAN-DER!
THEN, IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE STILL DOING YOUR BEST... IF YOU REALLY CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO STAY HERE


"COMM-
ANDER
SADANOBU
SASAJIMA...
THIS IS
FROM THE
HEAD-
QUARTERS
OF THE
EASTERN
OCEAN
FLEET...


IS EXPRESSLY
FORBIDDEN
FROM LEAVING
THE COAST
UNTIL THE
MOBILIZATION
OPEARTION
IS COMPLETED"

DID THE
UNAHAMA
ARRIVE?
.....
YOU
MUST
HAVE BEEN
THE ONE
WHO
INFORMED
THEM
YOU,
...はー!?


Imperial Navy Second Generation steam cruiser,
Unahama
IMPRESSIVE IT'S COMING WITH 30 BOATS AND THE UNKATEI
THAT SHIP WAS DEVASTATED BY THE WAVES,
AND THEY'VE RESTORED IT!

OUR OPERATION IS GOING SMOOTHLY,
THINGS ARE IMPROVING THANKS TO THE UNAHAMA
THE SHIP COMMANDER, MORITA, HAS A FAIRLY GOOD REPUTATION
HEH AT THE MOMENT, IT WOULDN'T REALLY MATTER IF HE HAD A TERRIBLE REPUTATION EITHER
IF IT HELPED US, I'D GLADLY GIVE MY LITTLE SISTER AWAY--
WHAT?!
TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE A LITTLE SISTER
COM-MANDER MORITA ALREADY HAS A WIFE BACK HOME
AND SO DO YOU
BRINGING YOU BACK SAFE TO YOUR WIFE IS MY DUTY

AND ALSO THAT MAN, HIS 'CATS', AND HIS SUBORDINATES
WHO ARE FIGHTING TO THE BITTER END
JUST TO GIVE US ENOUGH TIME TO RUN
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED,
THE BOMBING OF MAMURO FAILED, AND I COULDN'T FULFILL MY PROMISE
WITH NO WAY LEFT FOR US TO INFORM THEM
I'M A DISGRACEFUL PERSON
COM-MAN-DER!

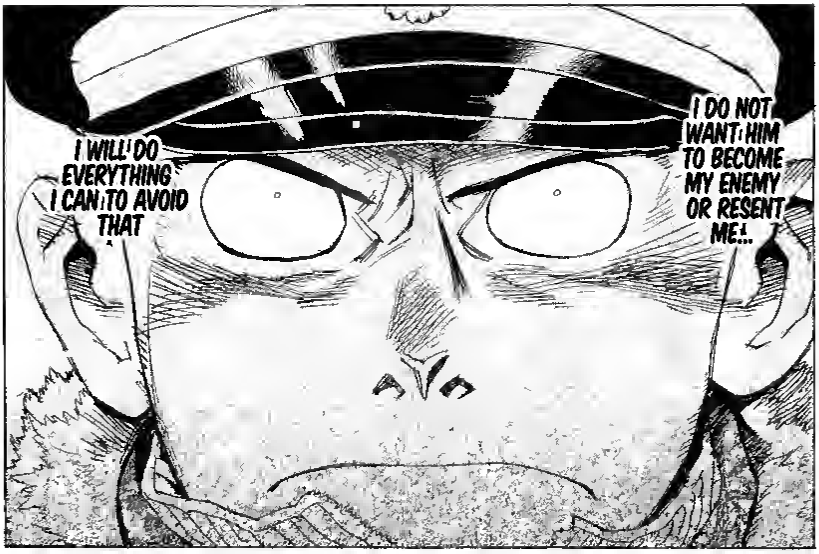
I CAN'T WALK TOWARDS DANGER IT'S NO USE
I FELT DEEPLY RELIEVED THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN I AM
WHEN I READ THIS ORDER FORBIDDING ME TO LEAVE,

EVEN NOW, HE KEEPS PROVING HIS WORTH AT ONAE
CAPTAIN SHINJO SURPASSED OUR EXPECTATIONS I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE HIS ENEMY

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM

WE NEED TO FINISH OUR WORK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
YOU SHOULD DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE THEIR EFFORTS PAY OFF
HOWEVER, THAT'S PRECISELY WHY, RATHER THAN TRYING TO CONTACT HIM,

LET'S SUPPOSE FOR A MOMENT THAT HE...
DIES?
THAT WOULD BE THE WORST CASE SCENARIO...
BUT...
IT WOULD BE EVEN WORSE...
IF HE DOES RETURN HERE ALIVE...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO HIM?
OF COURSE, I'LL DO MY BEST TO KEEP MY PROMISE OF GIVING HIM PRIORITY IN PRISONER EXHANGES, SHOULD HE BE CAPTURED
BUT WILL THAT BE ENOUGH FOR THAT MAN TO FORGIVE ME?


I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO AVOID THAT
I DO NOT WANT HIM TO BECOME MY ENEMY OR RESENT ME...

SIR, I HAVE NEWS!
THERE ARE NOW A LITTLE MORE THAN 2,000 MEN LEFT TO EVACUATE
KEEP GOING UNTIL WE HAVE ONLY 1,000 MEN LEFT
WHEN WE REACH THAT POINT, WE CAN GET EVERYTHING READY FOR US TO LEAVE AS WELL
WHO'S THE COMMANER OF THE FORCES REMAINING AT THE COAST?
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR HIM
パラ
IT'S THE BRIGADE COMMANDER OF THE 5TH IMPERIAL GUARDS CIVIL REGIMENT
WHOA, REALLY?
YEAH, THERE'S NO MISTAKE

WE HAVE SOME OTHER DUTIES BESIDES HELPING WITH THE EVACUATION
WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMIES,
IN ORDER TO DO THAT...
UNDER-STOOD
NONE OTHER THAN HIS HIGHNESS, BRIGADIER GENERAL PRINCE SANEHITO
WE WILL COOPERATE
WE WILL HAVE TO USE ALL AMMUNITION WE HAVE LEFT HERE...
AND EXPLODE OR BURN EVERYTHING LEFT IN HERE
WHO COULD'VE GUESSED THAT THE LAST REMAINING SQUAD'S COMMANDER WOULD BE...
I REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH THIS TASK

EVEN THOUGH HE WAS PART OF THE FIVE RULING FAMILIES, HE WILL BE WILL NOW BE KNOWN...
AS THE "COMMANDER WHO FLED AHEAD OF HIS OWN PRINCE"
HIS REPUTATION IS INDEED BEYOND WHAT WE COULD HAVE IMAGINED
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT GENERAL MORIHARA REAPED WHAT HE SOWED
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?
YES?
COMMANDER SASAJIMA...
IN ANY CASE, THE PRINCE'S TROOPS FOUGHT VALIANTLY FOR THEIR LEADER,
HIS FAMILY IS THE SECOND IN THE LINE OF SUCESSION OF OUR EMPIRE THERE'S NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THESE TWO

CAPTAIN SHINJO NAOE
HE DID A SPLENDID JOB HELPING MY BRIGADE ESCAPE
I'VE CALLED 178 MEN OF THE RESERVE CORPS, AS WELL AS FOR MORE CATS: TAEKAMI, KONRON, FUWA, AND OUGO!
WE ARE PREPARED TO DIE!!

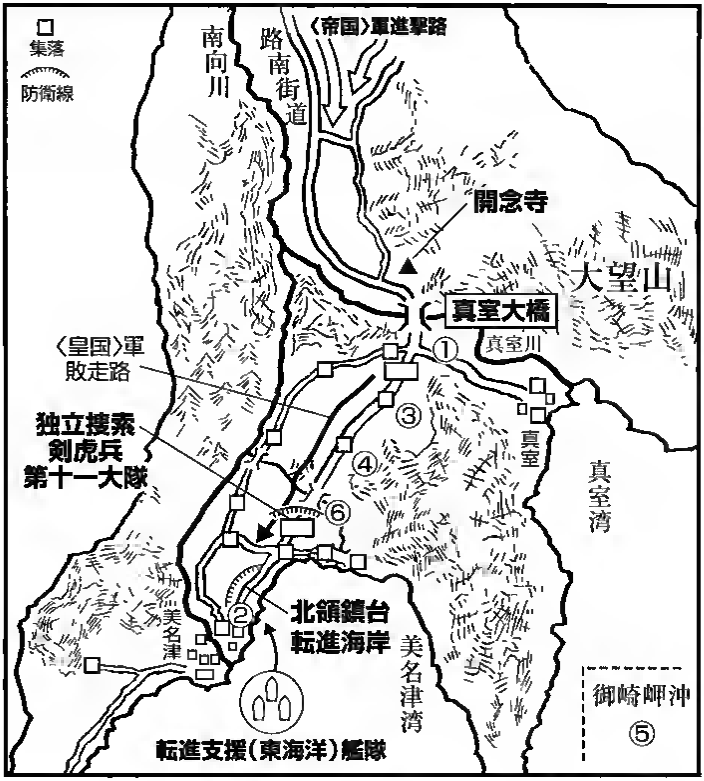
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THIKING...
ハァ…
ハァハァ…
IF NOW, IN THIS LAST MOMENT
IF WE REALLY COULDN'T JUST GIVE UP
ウルル…
THAT DOES MEAN I AM A COMPLETE IDIOT
ウルル…
BUT IF THEN YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT CAVALRY WILL GET MORE SUPPLIES...
WE JUST HAVE TO REACH THEM FIRST
ウルル…
ウルルウ
THAT IS TO SAY, WE ARE NOT GOING THERE TO DIE

GRRR
RROARR
GRRR
WE'RE GOING TO COUNTER-ATTACK.

DO YOU WANT TO DASH AHEAD, CHIHAYA?
LET'S GO...
TO THE BATTLEFIELD WE WERE MEANT FOR!

第二章〈光帯の下で〉戦況概要

◎路南半島拡大図



〈豊紀五百六十八年〉

二月十三日：◆笹嶋中佐、前線の新城のもとを訪れる(①)

新城、大尉への野戦昇進を告げられる。第十一大隊を指揮し、二月二十四日までの十日間、時間を稼ぐことを要請された新城は、引き受ける条件として、真室穀倉の艦砲射撃を要請。

十四日：◆北領鎮台転進海岸(②)

笹嶋中佐、「大瀬」艦長・坪田中佐に真室穀倉の砲撃を依頼。

十五日：◆真室川渡河点(①)

焼き落とされた真室大橋跡にユーリアが架橋を指示。メレンティンの計算によれば、十七日には架橋完了。架橋後の追撃にカミンスキィが名乗りを上げる。
新城、架橋作業中の〈帝国〉軍に対し、作業を遅延させるための攪乱砲撃。その後、二日間、先行渡河した敵斥候を叩き、昼と夜にさらなる攪乱砲撃を実施。その間に十里以上後退に成功。

十七日：◆真室大橋から南方十二里(③)

・午後第二刻　転進支援隊本部より伝令、「稼ぐ時間に変更なし」。作戦会議。衆民の恐怖心をあおり、美名津まで下がらせるために「〈帝国〉軍が迫っている」とウソをつき、〈帝国〉軍を装って偽装襲撃をする、と新城が発案。その後、大隊は後退しながら村々を焼き、井戸には毒を投げ込むという作戦。ルートから外れるものの、豊富な食料を持つ「真室穀倉」は笹嶋に依頼し、念のために艦砲射撃させる旨も伝えられる。漆原は反発するも、村への偽装襲撃を命令される。

十八日：◆近隣の村(④)

午前第六刻　漆原、偽装襲撃の際、誤って村の子供を射殺してしまう。

◆御崎岬沖　推定十八里(⑤)

午後第四刻　坪田中佐率いる巡洋艦「大瀬」、大時化に遭遇。苦戦しつつも真室に接近を試みる。

十九日：◆御崎岬沖(⑤)

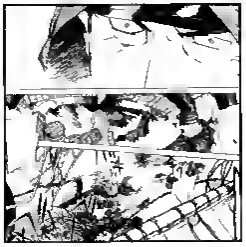
・午前第二刻　巡洋艦「大瀬」沈没。生存者無し。
・午前第三刻　新城ら、小苗橋到着。

二十日：◆小苗橋(⑥)

・午前第七刻　小苗橋対岸に、シュヴェーリン少将率いる先鋒隊が到着。上苗からの迂回作戦を警戒する新城は、敵の意識をこちらに集中させるために砲撃を開始。その後、小苗橋を爆破。

二十一日：◆小苗橋(⑤)

・午前第九刻　強行渡河する〈帝国〉軍に対し、新城、あえて「予備隊」を投入。心理戦に持ち込む。
・ほぼ同時刻　カミンスキィ率いる大隊が上苗渡河点に到着。
・午前第十一刻半　金森二等導術兵が、上苗を、渡河する迂回部隊を察知。報告を聞いた新城は真室穀倉砲撃が失敗に終わったことを知る。最終手段として、苗川渡河点を兵藤・妹尾に託し、自らは迂回部隊の迎撃に向かうことを決意。
・午後第十二刻過ぎ　カミンスキィ率いる大隊、渡河完了。損害六十七名。そこに、シュヴェーリンから檄が届けられる旨の伝令が届く。



稼ぐべき時間はあと三日…。豊富な食料を手にした圧倒的大軍勢を止められるのか――!?

皇國の守護者

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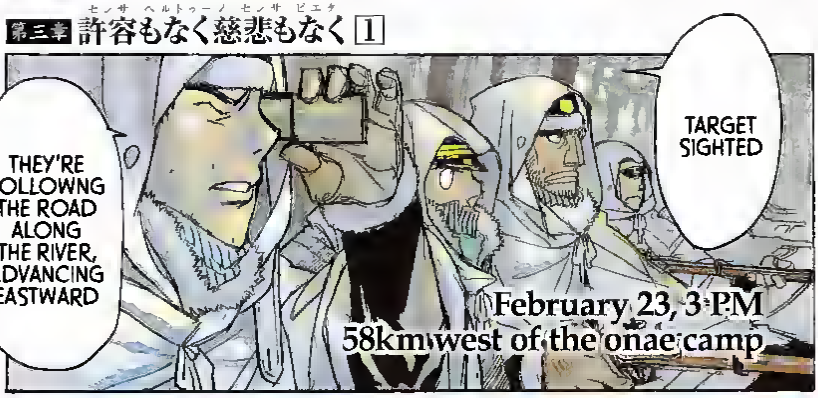
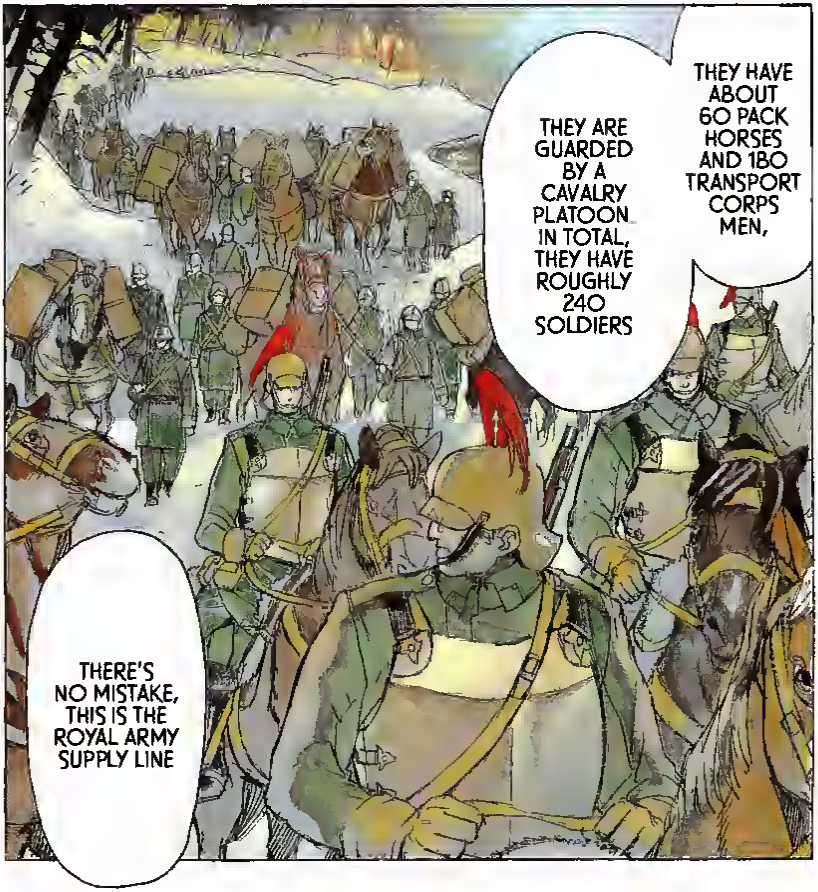

TARGET SIGHTED
THEY'RE FOLLOWNG THE ROAD ALONG THE RIVER, ADVANCING EASTWARD
February 23, 3 PM
58km west of the onae camp

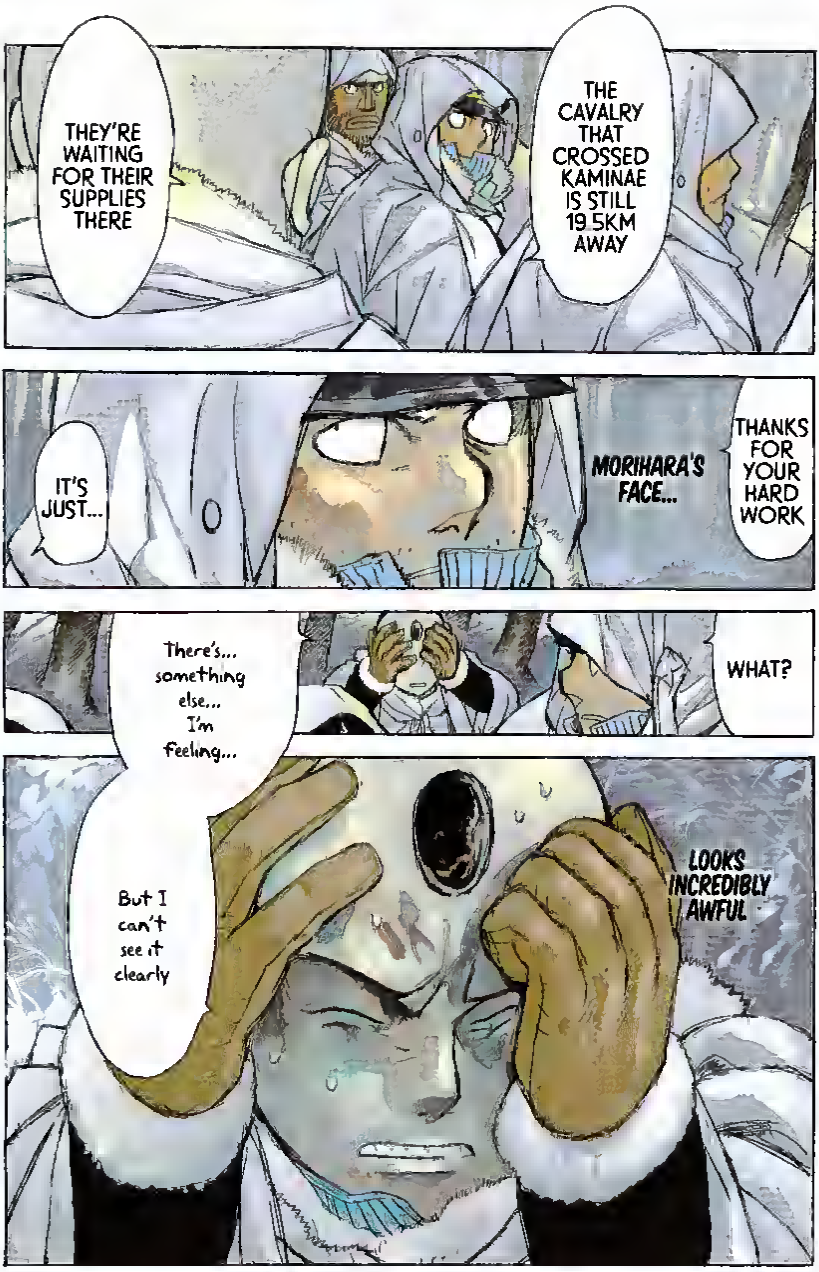

THEY HAVE ABOUT 60 PACK HORSES AND 180 TRANSPORT CORPS MEN,
THEY ARE GUARDED BY A CAVALRY PLATOON IN TOTAL, THEY HAVE ROUGHLY 240 SOLDIERS
THERE'S NO MISTAKE, THIS IS THE ROYAL ARMY SUPPLY LINE

Ch. 3

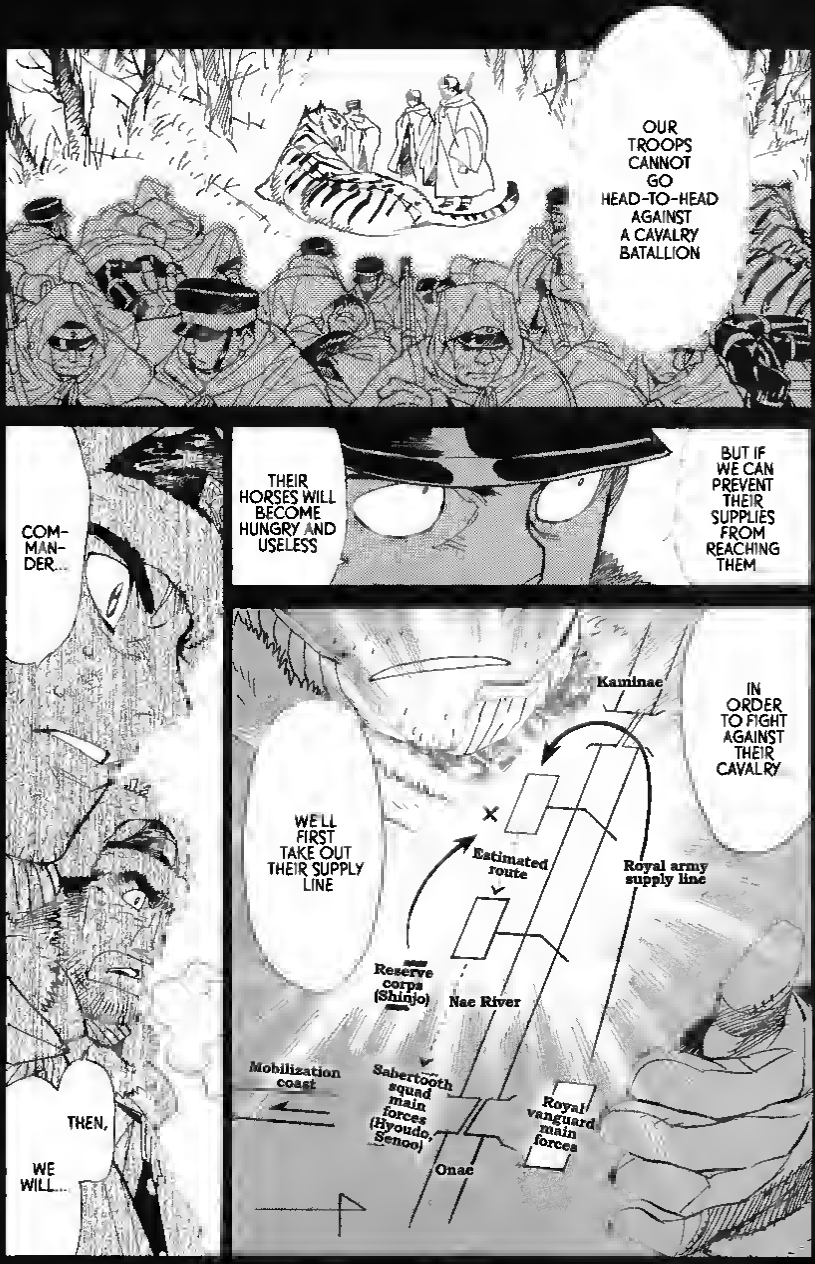
Senza Pardono, Senza Pietá

(Without Pardon, Without Piety)

1


THEY'RE WAITING FOR THEIR SUPPLIES THERE
THE CAVALRY THAT CROSSED KAMINAE IS STILL 19.5KM AWAY
IT'S JUST...
MORIHARA'S FACE...
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
There's... something else... I'm feeling...
WHAT?
But I can't see it clearly
LOOKS INCREDIBLY AWFUL

It's useless... I can't make sense of it
REST
YOU DON'T NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ATTACK.
SERGEANT MAJOR, TAKE MORIHARA TO OUR MEDICS
YES, SIR
"SOMETHING ELSE"?
NO. NO MATTER. WE HAVE TO ATTACK OUR ENEMIES HERE
THERE'S NO TIME...


OUR TROOPS CANNOT GO HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST A CAVALRY BATALLION
THEIR HORSES WILL BECOME HUNGRY AND USELESS
BUT IF WE CAN PREVENT THEIR SUPPLIES FROM REACHING THEM
COM-MAN-DER...
IN ORDER TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR CAVALRY
WE'LL FIRST TAKE OUT THEIR SUPPLY LINE
Kaminae
Estimated route
Royal army supply line
Reserve corps (Shinjo)
Nae River
Mobilization coast
Sabertooth squad main forces (Hyoudo, Senoo)
Royal vanguard main forces
Onae
THEN,
WE WILL...

MOVE INTO THE CENTER...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
OF THE ENEMY TROOPS?
A SMILE? HE'S DOING HIS BEST TO STAY COMPOSED
THAT'S EXACTLY IT!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
BUT INDEED, WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION
LET'S ASSUME WE CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH UNDETECTED, SAY 20-40 METERS AWAY
WE'LL ATTACK THE GUARDING CAVALRY FIRST,
AND THEN DESTROY AS MUCH OF THEIR CARGO AS POSSIBLE
BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN "FEEL THE SUSPICIOUS WIND IN THE AIR", WE GET TO FIRING RANGE

BY FOCUSING ON THESE TWO TARGETS FIRST..
WE CAN CHARGE THEM AFTERWARDS AND FINISH THE JOB
ISN'T THIS STRATEGY TOO DANGEROUS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?
THE ONLY REAL FIREPOWER OF THE RESERVE CORPS ARE THEIR RIFLES,
WITH JUST THAT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPLETELY WIPE THEM OUT
SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT AT CLOSE RANGE
WE'RE WALKING FOR ONE HOUR AFTER THE ENEMY ATTACK FROM YESTERDAY...
JUST A SHORT ONE HOUR BREAK AND ANOTHER 3 HOURS OF REST IS NOT ENOUGH TO REDUCE THEIR FATIGUE
EVEN I, HAVE TO HIDE MY FEAR

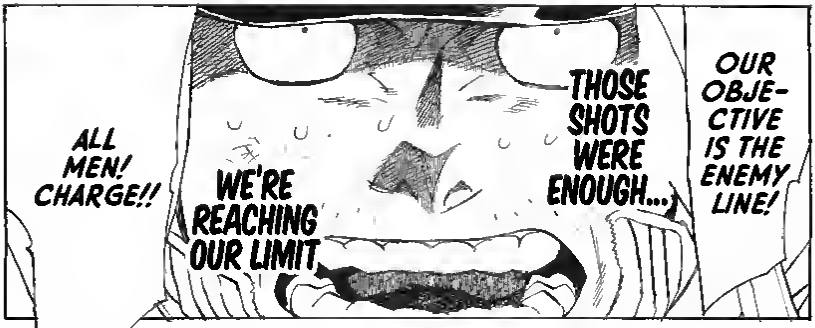
THAT WAS SOMETHING I PRIDED MYSELF ON...
EVEN DURING TRAINING EXERCISES LONG AGO, I NEVER FORCED OUR TROOPS TO THIS LEVEL OF FATIGUE...
(Distance: 90m)
ザッ...
ザッ...
BUT STARTING NOW, THIS IS A BATTLEFIELD
MAYBE THEY AREN'T COMING THIS WAY...
I FEEL SO TIRED...
ハァ・ハァ
72m...
SEEMS LIKE OUR COVER HAS BEEN BLOWN FROM BEHIND...
HUH? HAVE WE BEEN FOUND?
ヒュー
AND SADLY ALL THESE SOLDIERS AND CATS WILL END UP JOINING ME
HAH SO THIS IS INDEED WHERE I'LL PAY FOR ALL MY MISTAKES
ドン
ドン
ドン
ドン
ドン

IT'S JUST THE USUAL...
JUST THE USUAL TERROR BEFORE A BATTLE...
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT THOUGH...
!
!!
THIS TERROR... MAKES ME WANT TO URINATE...
Distance: 36m
ALL RIGHT, STOP!
WE'LL TAKE A QUICK BREAK HERE!!
THEIR HORSES ARE FACING US!!

FIRE!
THEY NOTICED US!

HURRY! RELOAD AND KEEP SHOOTING!
QUI-CKLY!
THIS ISN'T SO DISAPPOINTING...
OUR ENEMY IS CONFUSED AND WASTING PRECIOUS TIME...
THIS OPPORTUNITY IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY

ALL GUNS RELOADED!
FIRE!!
HHHHHH!
HHHHHH!


OUR OBJECTIVE IS THE ENEMY LINE!
THOSE SHOTS WERE ENOUGH...
WE'RE REACHING OUR LIMIT
ALL MEN! CHARGE!!

AAAHHHHH!!
AKOH!
AH!
AAAAHHH!!
AHHH!!
AHH...
I PEED A LITTLE

WE'VE KILLED ALL CAVALRY PROTECTING THEIR SUPPLIES
WE LOST 28 MEN,
62 SOLDIERS SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES, BUT ARE STILL ABLE TO FIGHT
WHAT ABOUT MAJOR INJURIES?
THERE ARE NONE
WE FINISHED OFF ANYONE WHO HAD DEEP WOUNDS AND COULDN'T MOVE...
BOTH ENEMIES AND ALLIES
I'M ALREADY SO DIRTY, I SIMPLY DON'T CARE ANYMORE...
EVER SINCE THE BATTLE AT TENROU, MY CLOTHES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN COVERED IN BLOOD AND DIRT. THE SAME CAN BE SAID ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE
IT'S ALREADY DRY
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I WON'T GET FROST-BITE...

I WONDER IF EVERY-ONE WILL BE O.K. WITH THAT
GATHER ALL BUT ONE PACK, AND BURN IT ALL,
DO NOT LET ANYONE STEAL ANY OF IT
I AM WILLING TO OVERLOOK IF THEY TAKE ONLY MINOR OBJECTS, BUT ALLOWING ANYTHING MORE
WILL JUST MAKE US ACCUMULATE TOO MUCH LUGGAGE AND OUR MOVEMENTS WILL BECOME SLOWER
SINCE WE ONLY HAVE A FEW CATS, SOME OF THE HORSES ARE NOT GETTING VIOLENT OR SCARED WHEN WE APPR-OACH!
USE THOSE TO PULL OUR SLEDS,
YOU CAN JUST LET THE OTHER HORSES ROAM FREE
ALL RIGHT, RUN!
ヒヒーン

ゴオオ
WELL DONE. IT TOOK US JUST HALF AN HOUR TO ATTACK THEM,
AND RETREAT AS WELL
BUT, LOOKING AT OUR CONDITION AS A WHOLE...
THAT WASN'T REALLY FAST ENOUGH...

NOW THAT THE BARBARIANS AT ONAE ARE SO CLOSE BY...
FOR HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION?
78km west of the oneae fortification.
Eastern Territories Third Hussarl Regiment, First Batallion.
March temporarily suspended
YOUR JUDGEMENT IS NOT INCORRECT
THE SUPPLIES ARE TAKING TOO LONG TO REACH US
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE INCREDIBLY FAST DURING THESE LAST TWO DAYS,
THANKS TO MAJOR GEN. SCHWERIN
HE AND A FEW OTHER SOLDIERS WERE DISPATCHED TO THE SUPPLY LINE,
AND WERE ABLE TO BRING SOME RESOURCES BACK TO US
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RUN OUT OF FOOD NOW,
BUT THEY HAVE NOT SENT A MESSENGER

IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THREE MEALS A DAY,
IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP UP A GOOD PACE FROM NOW ON

5PM
COM-MANDER!
OUR MESSENGER HAS RETURNED!

THIS SITTUATION REQUIRES DRASTIC MEASURES...
IN THIS SITTUATION, ANY AVERAGE COMMANDER WOULD SIMPY...
NOT DO MUCH MORE THAN WASTE OUR TIME AROUND THIS AREA WHILE WE WAIT FOR OUR SUPPLIES

THEY'VE BEEN COMPLETELY WIPED OUT
THE ENEMY MASSACRED ALL OUR SOLDIERS AND ESCORTS, THEN BURNED EVERYTHING IN THE WAGONS
WIPED OUT?
DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING SPECIAL?
WHAT IN PARTICUL--
WAS THAT A DIFFERENT SQUAD THAT SLIPPED BY OUR SCOUTS?
I WONDER...

WAIT...
THERE WERE FOOTPRINTS BIGGER THAN THOSE OF A HORSE
BUT THERE WEREN'T MANY OF THEM
YES, SIR
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK. GO REST
HEH.
I'M NOT COMPLETELY SURE MYSELF, MAXIM
COM-MANDER?

DON'T TELL ME...
DESPITE ALL THE PRESSURE AT ONAE, THEY STILL HAVE OTHER TROOPS SCATTERED AROUND?
AND HOW DID THEY EVEN FIND OUT ABOUT OUR DETOUR VIA KAMINAE?!
BUT I THINK THOSE BARBARIAN ANIMAL TAMERS ARE THE ONES WHO ATTACKED OUR SUPPLY LINE
THERE IS NO OTHER CREATURE I CAN THINK OF THAT COULD LEAVE FOOTPRINTS LARGER THAN THAT OF A HORSE
THIS IS WAR, MAXIM
THIS IS WAR
I CANNOT BELIEVE SUCH CLAIMS OF "MAGIC"
AND BESIDES, ISN'T IT SAID THAT OUR ENEMIES CONTROL SOME STRANGE MAGIC?
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW IT HAPPENED. THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD SENTRIES WATCHING THE BRIDGE

I'M HONORED, SIR
BEING ABLE TO PROPERLY PRAISE YOUR SUBORTINATES IS ONE OF YOUR VIRTUES,
"BEAUTIFUL COLONEL"
HEHEHE...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT I WON'T BOTHER YOU WITH ANY UNNECESSARY QUESTIONS
THANK YOU
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE THE ONE I CHOSE TO BE OUR HEAD-OF-STAFF
GATHER OUR MOST HEALTHY MEN
NOW THAT OUR SUPPLY CHAIN HAS BEEN SEVERED, WE CANNOT CHARGE AHEAD
WE'LL START PLANNING APPROPRIATE COUNTER-MEASURES AT ONCE,
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN TO DO, CORRECT?
GIVE THEM HALF OF OUR REMAINING FOOD

MISSION:
"NO MATTER WHAT, WE MUST RECOVER WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR SUPPLIES"
Kaminae
Beast Tamers (detached forces)
Supplies recovered by Schwerin
Supplies destined to our battalion (destroyed)
Onae
First Hussarl battalion (Kaminsky)
AS OF NOW, THEY MAY BE IN DANGER
EXACTLY,
THEY MUST HAVE CROSSED KAMINAE BY NOW
THAT BEASTLY BATALLION IS THE ONLY ONE OBSTNATE ENOUGH TO SET UP THIS KIND OF DEFENSIVE OPERATION
THEY DO NOT HAVE ANOTHER SQUAD DETECHED AROUND HERE
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY THAT MUCH
I'M CERTAIN THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN WITH THEIR POWER,
BUT, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER ENEMY TROOPS SCATTERED ABOUT
I'M WORRIED ABOUT BEING ATTACKED BY YET ANOTHER SQUAD AS WELL

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE NO OTHER ENEMY SQUADS IN THIS REGION,
AND THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THEM SENDING REINFORCEMENTS FROM ONAE
AFTER ALL, THEIR FORCES HAVE ALREADY DWINDLED TO THE POINT THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ANOTHER BATALLION AVAILABLE

AND SINCE THEY'VE SENT ALL THEIR FORCES,
THEY DON'T WANT TO LOSE NOW THAT THEY'RE COME THIS FAR

WELL THEN, WHO IS TO LEAD OUR TROOPS AGAINST THEM?
WE WILL NEED A COMPETENT AND COURAGEOUS MAN TO LEAD OUR FORCES AGAINST THESE 'BEAST TAMERS'

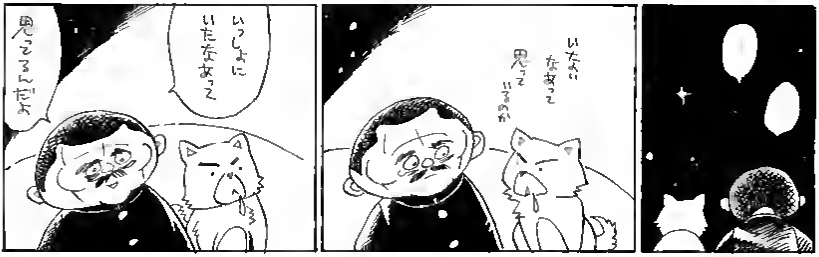
WHAT ABOUT BARKHORN?
REJOICE!
I AM GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE SCATTERING OUR PITIABLE ENEMIES TO THE WIND!
SHOW THOSE BEAST TAMERS THEY ARE NOT EVEN WORTHY ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERED YOUR 'ENEMY'!!

Imperial Guards Volume 3 - End

ねこの シューティングスター

楽しい話が多くて 恥縮ですが
2005年の12月
22年いっしょに 暮らした
ネコが 逝きました

なまえは ポコといって
背中より 顔の下半分から
胸まで白くて 手足も白で
てとみは いもおうかん色



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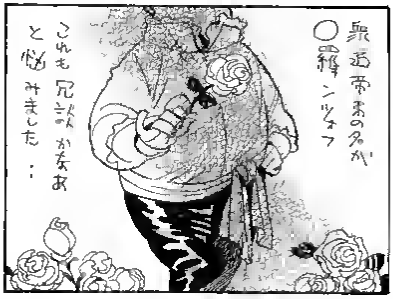

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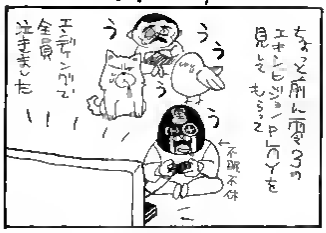

ありがとう…！次はヴォルヨ…